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# MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21209

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Active Membership: \$10.00 plus chapter dues	Life: \$400.00 (4 annual installments)
Household: \$15.00 plus chapter dues	Junior (under 18): \$5.00 plus chapter
Sustaining: \$25.00 plus chapter dues	

*Cover: Tundra Swans on Choptank River, Cambridge, MD, February 1975. Photo by Luther C. Goldman.*



## **NEW EARLY MARYLAND EGG DATE FOR NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW**

**JAY M. SHEPPARD**

The current earliest reported egg date for Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) for Maryland is May 13 (Iliff, et al., 1996). Considering that most Rough-wings nest in narrow burrows inaccessible to inspection by most observers, this is not surprising. I now report a confirmed egg date of May 2 as the earliest for this species in Maryland.

On June 5, 2003, I found a pair of swallows nesting under a parked semitrailer located behind the Corridor Place Shopping Center on the east side of Maryland City, Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The nest site was in the underside structure of the front end of the semitrailer. Sheet metal was placed under the main floor of the trailer that allowed a series of small spaces running across the underside. Each of these had a hole near the outside edge of the trailer subfloor of about 15 cm in diameter. The subfloor compartment was 10 cm high and about 30 cm across and running the 2.5 m width of the semitrailer. Only one of the compartments was in use and it had no interior barrier, allowing the swallows to move from one side of the trailer and escape out the other side.

Two nests existed under the trailer when inspected in 2003. The nests were placed toward the center of the undercarriage from their nearest access hole. Both were composed of just grasses and were approximately 7 cm high, leaving about 3 cm of space above them. At the time of their initial discovery in 2003 only one nest was active and contained young about a week old.

In very early April 2004 a pair of Rough-winged Swallows was observed perched or flying in the immediate vicinity of the trailer. On April 29 the nests were inspected by inserting my hand through the holes and feeling the contents. At that time, no eggs were detected. In the late morning of May 5, four warm eggs were found in one of the nests, and an adult was flushed from that nesting space out the hole on the opposite side of the nest. If the last egg was laid and incubation started that morning, then the latest possible date for the first egg would be May 2.

The semitrailer has been permanently parked behind a bakery shop for extra storage since at least 2000. Exactly how long the swallows have been using it for nesting is not determinable. Only one pair of swallows was present in the area in June 2003, but two were present

in 2004. The one nest that was not in use in June 2003 had a clutch of eggs on May 20, 2004. Dejong (1996) mentions the use of semitrailers as nest sites in his life history account for this species but without any details or citation provided.

LITERATURE CITED

Dejong, M. 1996. Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*). *The Birds of North America*, No. 234 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

Iliff, M.J., R.F. Ringler, J.L. Stasz. 1996. *Field List of the Birds of Maryland*. Maryland Avifauna No. 2. Third Edition. Maryland Ornithological Society, Baltimore, MD.

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MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER  
FISCAL YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 2003

OPERATING FUND

Income:

Membership Dues .....	\$30,072.50
Sales .....	1,125.82
Environmental Fund of Maryland.....	2,616.65
Conference 2002 (Net).....	4,807.13
World Series of Birding .....	2,930.89
Income, Miscellaneous .....	28.00
Interest & Investment Income .....	4,497.76
Total Income.....	\$46,078.75

Expenses:

Affiliations, Memberships.....	\$ 275.00
Audit & Tax Preparation .....	2,050.00
Awards.....	654.20
Bulk Storage.....	2,270.60
Birdlife to CD .....	6,552.00
Conservation .....	350.00
Contingencies/Miscellaneous .....	56.65
Executive Secretary.....	2,400.00
Liability Insurance .....	3,624.00

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## OPERATING FUND

*Expenses (continued):*

Maryland Birdlife.....	2,327.94
Maryland Yellowthroat.....	6,285.33
Membership Database Management.....	626.48
MOS Website .....	222.99
Officers Expense .....	355.70
Office Supplies, Postage, Copies .....	787.97
Retreat .....	1,531.66
Sales Tax .....	24.04
Scholarship Committee.....	286.34
Telephone.....	609.60
World Series of Birding Expenses .....	420.00
World Series of Birding Projects .....	2,510.89
Special Expense from 2001-02 .....	<u>8,935.50</u>
<i>Total Expenses.....</i>	<i>\$43,156.89</i>

## ATLAS FUND

<i>Income .....</i>	<i>\$16,913.16</i>
<i>Expense .....</i>	<i>\$35,828.66</i>

## EDUCATION FUND

<i>Income .....</i>	<i>\$2,404.44</i>
<i>Expense .....</i>	<i>\$1,602.58</i>

## NON-DESIGNATED FUND

<i>Income .....</i>	<i>\$913.69</i>
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## RESEARCH FUND

<i>Income &amp; Carryover .....</i>	<i>\$8,575.94</i>
<i>Expense .....</i>	<i>\$4,091.00</i>

## SANCTUARY FUND

<i>Income .....</i>	<i>\$ 7,203.90</i>
<i>Expense &amp; Maintenance .....</i>	<i>\$17,994.72</i>

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

<i>Income .....</i>	<i>\$7,946.68</i>
<i>Expense .....</i>	<i>\$7,680.00</i>

## 2002 CONFERENCE

<i>Income .....</i>	<i>\$38,486.50</i>
<i>Expense .....</i>	<i>\$33,679.37</i>

Shiras Guion, Treasurer



## REPORTS BY ROBERT F. RINGLER

### OBSERVERS, ABBREVIATIONS & LOCATIONS IN THIS ISSUE

**Observers:** Joe Alexander, Terry Allen, George Armistead, Harry Armistead, Stan Arnold, Zach Baer, Tyler Bell, Debby Bennett (reporting for Caroline Co.), Anne Bishop, Mike Bowen, Debbie Bowers, Ed Boyd, Gwen Brewer, Jim Brighton, Dave Brinker, Carol Broderick, Don Broderick, Don Burggraf, Fred Burggraf, Danny Bystrak, Mike Callahan, Cathy Carroll, Rick Cheicante, J. B. Churchill, Barry Cooper, Jane Coskren, Keith Costley, Scott Crabtree, Patty Craig (reporting for St. Mary's Co.), Marty Cribb, Ralph Cullison, Jon Cupp, Dave Czaplak, Karen Darcy, Lynn Davidson, Curtis Dew, Tina Dew, Bill Dobbins, Marian Dodson, Sam Dyke, Les Eastman, Don Eberly, Ward Ebert, Andy Ednie, Bill Ellis, Walter Ellison, Ethel Engle, David Farner, Jean Fry (reporting for Harford Co.), Larry Fry, Inez Glime, Kevin Graff, Jim Gruber, Paul Guris, Matt Hafner, Sue Hamilton, Bill Harris, Clive Harris, Karen Harris, Tom Harten, Dave Harvey, Maureen Harvey, Kevin Heffernan, Robert Hilton, Mark Hoffman, Hans Holbrook, Emmalyn Holdridge, David Holmes, John Hubbell, Steve Huy, Marshall Iliff, Simone Jenion, Kye Jenkins, George Jett, Parke John, Ray Kiddy, Elliot Kirschbaum, Nancy Kirschbaum, Jane Kostenko, Charlie Kucera, Dave Larkin, Peter Lev, Glenn Lovelace, Gail Mackiernan, Nancy Magnusson, John Maloney, Peter Mann, Tom Marko, Joel Martin, Nancy Martin, Dave Mozurkewich, Sue Neri, Lou Nielsen, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Mary Paul, Dave Perry, Jim Peters, Paul Pisano, Betty Pitney (reporting for Tri-County Bird Club), Danny Poet, Fran Pope, Dave Powell, Phil Powers, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Bob Ringer, Arlene Ripley, Les Roslund, Denise Ryan, Steve Sanford, Fran Saunders, Norm Saunders, Gene Scarpulla, Lydia Schindler, Bill Schreitz, Kurt Schwarz, Sharon Schwemmer, Bill Scudder, Fred Shaffer, Lisa Shannon, Jeff Shenot, Jay Sheppard, Don Simonson, Susan Sires, Adam Smith, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard Co.), Duvall Sollers, Jared Sparks, Chris Starling, Jim Stasz, Sigrid Stiles, Eva Sunell, Rick Sussman, Debbie Terry, Mary Ann Todd, June Tveekrem, Charlie Vaughn, Jason Waanders, Marcia Watson-Whitmyre, Dave Webb, Marsha Webb, Pete Webb, Sally Wechsler, Dave Weesner, Hal Wierenga, Jordan Wilkerson, Jim Wilkinson, Levin Wiley, Paul Woodward, Michele Wright, Helen Zeichner, Dave Ziolkowski.

**Abbreviations:** AA – Anne Arundel Co., AL – Allegany Co.; BA – Baltimore Co.; BC – Baltimore City; CBEC – Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, QA; CE – Cecil Co.; CH – Charles Co.; CL – Carroll Co.; CN – Caroline Co.; CT – Calvert Co.; DC – District of Columbia; DO – Dorchester Co.; FR – Frederick Co.; GA – Garrett Co.; HA – Harford Co.; HO – Howard Co.; KE – Kent Co.; MO – Montgomery Co.; MPEA – Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, HO; NEA – Natural Environment Area; NRMA – Natural Resources Management Area; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; PG – Prince George's Co.; PRNAS – Patuxent River Naval Air Station, SM; PRR – Patuxent Research Refuge, PG/AA; PVSP

– Patapsco Valley State Park; QA – Queen Anne’s Co.; RP – Regional Park; SM – St. Mary’s Co.; SO – Somerset Co.; SP – State Park; TA – Talbot Co.; UMCF – University of Maryland Central Farm, HO; WA – Washington Co.; WI – Wicomico Co.; WO – Worcester Co.; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; WWTP – Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Locations (followed by abbreviation of county):** Aberdeen Proving Ground, HA; Alens Fresh, CH; Alpha Ridge Landfill, HO; American Chestnut Land Trust, CT; Anacostia Park, DC; Ashton, MO; Assateague Island, WO; Beauvue, SM; Bel Air, HA; Berlin, WO; Bethel WMA, CE; Beulah, DO; Big Pool, WA; Bivalve, WI; Black Hill RP, MO; Blackwater NWR, DO; Bladensburg, PG; Brighton Dam, HO/MO; Broadford Lake, GA; Browns Station Landfill, PG; California, SM; Cambridge, DO; Centennial Park, HO; Centreville, QA; Charlestown, CE; Chesapeake Farms, KE; Chingville, SM; Chino Farms, QA; Cliffs City, KE; Clopper Lake, MO; Cobb Island, CH; Columbia, HO; Conowingo Dam & Lake, HA/CE; Cornfield Harbor, SM; Courthouse Point WMA, CE; Cromwell Valley Park, BA; Cumberland, AL; Cylburn Arboretum, BC; Dameron, SM; Dans Mountain, AL; Darnestown, MO; Deal Island WMA, SO; Denton, CN; E. A. Vaughn WMA, WO; Eagles Nest Campground, WO; East Potomac Park, DC; Eastern Neck Island NWR, KE; Easton, TA; Eden Mill Park, HA; Edgewood, HA; Elk Neck SP, CE; Elkton, CE; Ellicott City, HO; Elliott Island, DO; Fairlee, KE; Fairmount WMA, SO; Federalsburg, CN; Fishing Bay, DO; Flag Ponds Park, CT; Fletchers Boathouse, DC; Font Hill Park, HO; Fort McHenry, BC; Fort Smallwood Park, AA; Four Mile Run, DC; Frederick, FR; Fulton, HO; Galena, KE; George Island Landing, WO; Great Falls, MO; Great Oak Pond, KE; Greenbelt, PG; Greenbrier SP, WA; Greensboro, CN; Grove Neck WMA, CE; Gunpowder River, HA/BA; Hains Point, DC; Halethorpe Ponds, BA/AA; Hance Point, CE; Harford Glen, HA; Hart-Miller Dredged Material Containment Facility, BA; Havre de Grace, HA; Henryton, HO/CL; Herrington Manor SP, GA; Holland Island, DO; Hooper Island, DO; Hughes Hollow, MO; Hurlock, DO; Indian Creek WMA, CH; Indian Head, CH; Irish Grove Sanctuary, SO; Jefferson Patterson Park, CT; Joppatowne, HA; Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, AA; Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC; Kenilworth Park, DC; Kent Island, QA; Kent Narrows, QA; Kingman Lake, DC; Lake Artemesia, PG; Lake Elkhorn, HO; Lake Kittamaquidi, HO; Lake Roland, BA; Lakeside Business Park, HA; Lapidum, HA; Layhill Park, MO; Laytonsville, MO; Leonardtown, SM; Liberty Lake & Watershed, CL/BA; Lilypons, FR; Little Bennett RP, MO; Little Meadows Lake, QA; Little Seneca Lake, MO; Loch Raven Reservoir & Watershed, BA; Massey, KE; Mattawoman Creek & NEA, CH; McKeldin Area PVSP, CL; Meadowbrook Park, HO; Mears Farm, BA; Middletown, FR; Milford Mill Park, BA; Millington, KE; Morgantown, CH; Mount Pleasant, HO; Mountain Lake & Mountain Lake Park, GA; Mt. Nebo WMA, GA; Mystic Harbour, WO; Nanjemoy Creek, CH; Nanticoke, WI; National Arboretum, DC; Noland’s Ferry, FR; North Beach, CT; North East, CE; North Tract PRR, AA; Oak Grove, CN; Ocean City, WO; Ocean Pines, WO; Orange Grove Area PVSP, HO; Parsonsburg, WI; Patuxent River Park, PG; Pennyfield, MO; Perry Point, CE; Perryville, CE; Pickering Creek Audubon Center, TA; Piney Reservoir, GA; Piney Run Park, CL; Piscataway Creek, PG; Pocomoke City, WO; Point Lookout SP, SM; Poplar Island, TA; Port Tobacco, CH; Pylesville, HA; Queenstown, QA; Randallstown, BA; Ridge, SM; Ridgely, CN; Rigby’s Folly, TA; Rileys Lock, MO; Roaring Point, WI; Rock Creek Park, DC; Rockburn Branch Park, HO; Rocks SP, HA; Rocky Gap SP, AL; Roosevelt Island, DC; Rumbly Point, SO; Salisbury, WI; Sandy Point SP, AA; Schooley Mill Park, HO; Scotland, SM; Seneca, MO; Silver Spring, MO; Snow Hill, WO; Soldiers Delight, BA; Solomons, CT; South Point, WO; St. Michaels, TA; Susquehanna SP, HA; Swan Harbor Farm, HA; Sycamore Landing, MO; Sykesville, CL; Tanyard, CN; Taylors Island, DO; Taylors Landing, WO; Terrapin Nature Area, QA; Tidal Basin, DC; Tilghman Island, TA; Trout Run WWTP,

GA; Truitts Landing, WO; Tuckahoe SP, CN/QA; Tunis Mills, TA; Turkey Point, CE; Upper Marlboro, PG; Upper Watts Branch Park, MO; Violettes Lock, MO; Waldorf, CH; Wango, WI; Washington Channel, DC; Washington Monument SP, WA; West Ocean City, WO; Westminster, CL; Wilde Lake, HO; Williamsport, WA; Wootons Landing, AA; Wye Island, QA; Wye Research Center, QA.

## WINTER: DECEMBER 1, 2002–FEBRUARY 28, 2003

The featured events of this winter were associated with snow. At times it was bitterly cold; Chesapeake Bay froze. Heavy snows forced many birds that normally might not have been seen to roadsides or feeders; as a result some species were seen in remarkable numbers. Waterfowl were crowded into a limited number of locations by the encroaching ice.

*Loons, Grebes.* On Dec. 8 on Chesapeake Bay off Point Lookout Cribb saw nine **Red-throated Loons** and 44 **Common Loons**. A Common Loon was unusual in mid winter off Perry Point on Jan. 14 (Starling). A high of 60 **Pied-billed Grebes** was seen at Loch Raven on Dec. 8 (Terry) and 20 were off Four Mile Run on Jan. 14 (Bowen). Sightings of **Red-necked Grebes** were numerous with one at Kent Narrows on Jan. 1-14 (Poet +), one at Ocean City from Jan. 24 through the end of the period (Stasz, Boyd +), one at Jug Bay on Feb. 12-14 (Shenot +), one on the Potomac River in Montgomery off Riverbend Park, Virginia on Feb. 14 (D. Tella +), four at Fort McHenry on Feb. 14 (Peters), one at Point Lookout on Feb. 19-21 and another on Feb. 25-27 (Cribb +), and one at Ridge on Feb. 27 (Craig). The only **Eared Grebe** of the season was seen on the Lower Kent County CBC on Dec. 15 (Gruber).

*Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants.* Cribb counted 277 **Northern Gannets** on Chesapeake Bay off Point Lookout on Dec. 8 and on Jan. 9 Craig saw three from the latter site. **Brown Pelicans** remained longer into the winter than ever before, particularly in the lower Chesapeake. Cribb saw 14 pelicans at Cornfield Harbor on Dec. 4 and three days later 41 were counted at Point Lookout (P. Webb, Sanford); one was at Poplar I. on Dec. 13 (Reese) and one was at Sandy Point on Dec. 28 (Shaffer). Laura Balascio saw an immature Brown Pelican at North East on Dec. 29; the one found dead at Charlestown about two miles away, during the first week of January (*vide* Gary Griffith) was probably the same bird. The last pelican seen at Ocean City was on Dec. 30 (Joe Byrnes). On the lower Nanticoke River 15 pelicans were seen at Nanticoke on Jan. 5 (Vaughn) and 14 were at Bivalve on Jan. 15 (Dyke). An immature Brown Pelican was a surprise soaring over Pickering Creek on Jan. 17 (Roslund, Mark Scallion). Finally, five Brown Pelicans were at Point Lookout on Feb. 23 (Cribb) and Feb. 28 (Craig). Surprising numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** remained through the winter, topped by the 150 found by Jett on Jan. 16 on the Potomac River in Charles Co. between Popes Creek and Cobb I. Others of note were one at Flag Ponds on Dec. 19 (Ripley), one at Indian Head on Dec. 29 (Ringler), one at North East on Dec. 30 (Starling), two in DC on the Potomac River off National Airport on Jan. 1 (Hubbell +), six at Salisbury on Jan. 25 (Vaughn), one at Lapidum on Feb. 9 (Larkin), and one at Cliffs City on Feb. 21 and Mar. 2 (Ellison). Sightings of **Great Cormorants** included one at Ocean Pines on Jan. 4 and five at Ocean City on Jan. 4-5 (Hafner, Baer), one at Point Lookout on Jan. 8 (Craig), and one at Salisbury on Jan. 25-26 (Vaughn, Jenion, Dyke).

*Hérons, Ibis, Vultures.* The only **American Bitterns** reported were two at Deal Island WMA on Jan. 1 (Brighton) and one at Taylors Landing on Feb. 8 (Holbrook, Brighton). Con-



centrations of **Great Blue Herons** were 36 at Elliott I. on Jan. 26 (H. Armistead), 30 on the ice at Perry Point on Jan. 30 (Starling), and 15 at Great Falls on Feb. 14 (Bowen). Late herons included a **Great Egret** at Point Lookout on Dec. 23 (Craig, Cribb), a **Snowy Egret** at Saint Lawrence Neck, WO on Jan. 5 (Hafner, Baer), and a **Little Blue Heron** at West Ocean City on Dec. 6 (C. & D. Broderick). Wintering **Tricolored Herons** were one at Ocean City on Feb. 8 (Arnold) and six at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 13 (Dyke). On Feb. 1 Hubbell counted 22 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at the north end of Washington Channel. At least 12 **Glossy Ibis** were at Deal Island WMA on Jan. 4 (Hafner, Baer). In Garrett Co., six **Black Vultures** at Pleasant Valley on Feb. 8 and Feb. 18 (Irene & Samuel Yoder) were rare there as were five **Turkey Vultures** at Kempton on Jan. 9 (Pope).

*Geese, Swans.* A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was seen in the Piscataway area around the National Colonial Farm from Dec. 29 through Jan. 30 (Brewer +), one was in Charles Co. on Jan. 22 (Craig, Cribb), and two were seen on Jutland Neck, SM on Feb. 28 (Craig); possibly the same two were 10 miles farther north at PRNAS on Mar. 2 (Rambo +). Unusual inland were seven **Snow Geese** at Meadowbrook on Feb. 1 (Brigitte Lund, Anita Picco) and five, including one blue, at Little Seneca Lake on Feb. 2 (C. Harris); also notable were 24 at Scotland on Feb. 18-19 (Craig). Reports of **Ross's Geese** in Worcester Co. may have represented only two birds as the sightings were not far apart; one near Berlin on Dec. 8 (Kevin Krogh) and these on Jan. 5: two near Snow Hill (Hafner, Baer), one near Boxiron (Brighton), and two near Ironshire, WO (Holbrook, Brighton, Starling). Sightings of small race **Canada Geese** were one at Rigby's Folly on several dates from Dec. 15 through Mar. 15 (H. Armistead +), one on Kent I. on Dec. 19 (Mackiernan, Cooper), one at Chesapeake Farms on Jan. 16 (Ellison), four at Little Seneca Lake on Jan. 20-26 with one remaining on Feb. 2 (C. Harris +), one at Wye I. on Feb. 14 (B. & K. Harris), and one near Blackwater and six at Easton on Feb. 22 (Holbrook, Brighton). The only **Brant** away from the coast were an immature at Greenbelt Lake on Dec. 2-28 (Shaffer +) and one at Point Lookout on Mar. 1 (Holbrook, Brighton). Notable inland **Mute Swans** were one at Lake Elkhorn all season (Neri +) and two adults at Piney Run on Jan. 11-19 (Ringler). Mute Swans at Chesapeake Bay locations included 50 at Solomons on Jan. 10 (Stiles) and 120 at Kent I. on Jan. 12 (Ellison, N. Martin). Highs for **Tundra Swans** were 800 at Perry Point on Dec. 6 (Starling) and 385 at Eastern Neck on Jan. 25 (Ellison).

*Dabbling Ducks.* A mixture of lingering **Wood Ducks** and early spring migrants were two at Flag Ponds on Dec. 19 (Ripley), one at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Jan. 4 (Hafner, Baer), two at Sycamore Landing on Jan. 21 (Woodward), two at Havre de Grace on Jan. 25 (Eastman), one at Cambridge on Feb. 1 (Roslund), one at CBEC on Feb. 8 (Dodson +), two at Liberty Lake, BA on Feb. 9 (Ringler), seven at PRNAS on Feb. 13 (Rambo), 24 at Rock Creek Park on Feb. 17 (Ryan), and a drake throughout the season at Lake Elkhorn (Neri +). Highs for **Gadwall** were 200 at Flag Ponds on Dec. 19 (Ripley), 123 at Perry Point on Dec. 29 (Starling), 42 at Galena on Jan. 7 (Ellison), and 114 at Havre de Grace on Jan. 25 (Eastman). Single drake **Eurasian Wigeon** were at Mattawoman NEA from Nov. 29 through Dec. 22 (Jett, Brewer +), Swan Harbor Farm on Jan. 2 (Hafner), and on Assateague as seen from Eagles Nest on Jan. 5 (Hafner, Baer). Highs for **American Wigeon** were 300 at Loch Raven on Dec. 21 (Arnold) and 262 at Perry Point on Dec. 29 (Starling). Highs for **American Black Ducks** were 350 at Mattawoman Creek on Dec. 7 (Jett) and 250 at Eastern Neck on Jan. 25 (Ellison). Highs for **Mallards** were 500 at Mattawoman Creek on Dec. 7 (Jett) and 500 at Havre de Grace on Jan. 25 (Eastman). A hybrid **American Black Duck X Mallard** was at Perry Point on Jan. 11 (Starling). Wintering **Blue-winged Teal** were single males at Showell, WO on Jan. 4 (Hafner, Baer), Elliott Island on Jan. 20 (Jenkins), and Westminster through Feb. 1 (Ringler). About 70 **Northern Shovelers** were at Mattawoman Creek on Dec. 7 (Jett)

and 93 were at Chesapeake Farms on Jan. 4 (Ellison +). Highs for **Northern Pintails** were 410 at Mattawoman Creek on Dec. 7 (Jett), 106 at Great Oak Pond on Dec. 24 (Ellison), and 125 at Wye Island on Jan. 5 (B. & K. Harris). A hybrid drake **Mallard X Northern Pintail** was in St. Mary's Co. on Jan. 8 (Craig). On Dec. 7 Jett also counted 143 **Green-winged Teal** at Mattawoman Creek.

*Diving Ducks.* Highs for **Canvasbacks** were 400 at Perry Point on Dec. 6 (Starling), 1,200 at Eastern Neck on Jan. 4 (Ellison +), and 100 at Havre de Grace on Jan. 25 (Eastman). Notable numbers of **Redheads** were 117 at Loch Raven on Dec. 24 (Graff, Paul Noell), 20 at Little Seneca Lake on Jan. 19 (Bowen), 100 at Piscataway on Jan. 20 (Waanders, Philip Kline), 12 at Havre de Grace on Jan. 25 (Eastman), and 57 at Rigby's Folly on Feb. 9 (H. Armistead). Highs for **Ring-necked Ducks** were 2,000 at Piney Run on Dec. 1 (Ringler), 400 at Great Falls and 300 at Clopper Lake on Dec. 7 (Bowen), 515 at Loch Raven on Dec. 18 (E. Kirschbaum, Graff), 109 at Perry Point on Dec. 29 (Starling), and 72 near Centreville on Feb. 26 (Poet). Interesting reports of **Greater Scaup** were two at Marshall Hall, CH on Dec. 7 (Jett, Allen Browne), five at Perry Point on Dec. 16 (Starling), 1,100 at Eastern Neck on Jan. 4 (Ellison +), three in DC off Gravelly Point on Jan. 14 (Bowen), 45 at Cobb I. on Jan. 16 (Jett), one at Havre de Grace on Feb. 9 (Larkin), two at Elkton on Feb. 24 (Starling), and 100 at Kent Narrows on Feb. 26 (Holbrook). Highs for **Lesser Scaup** included 4,800 in Chesapeake Bay from Tolchester Beach, KE to Eastern Neck on Dec. 13 (Ellison), 2,500 at Poplar I. on Dec. 13 (Reese), and 240 in DC off Gravelly Point on Jan. 2 (Pisano). An immature male **Common Eider** was at Sandy Point, WO on Jan. 5 (Holbrook, Brighton, Starling) and a female was at Ocean City on Feb. 2 (Roslund +). The **Harlequin Duck** previously reported at Point Lookout remained at least through Jan. 9 (Cribb +); a male was at Ocean City from Jan. 1 through Feb. 15 (Brighton +) and a female was there on Jan. 4 (Baer). Two female Harlequin Ducks flew past Assateague on Jan. 25 (Hafner, Stasz, Boyd). A female **Surf Scoter** at Fort McHenry on Jan. 27-30 (Peters) was unusual there. Reports of **White-winged Scoters** were at least 50 at Poplar I. on Dec. 13 (Reese), two on the Potomac River, PG on Jan. 28 (R. Mayhorn), and five at Point Lookout on Feb. 14 (Craig). A **Black Scoter** off Taylors Island on Feb. 22 (Holbrook, Brighton) was unusual also. The high for **Long-tailed Ducks** was 140 at Eastern Neck on Dec. 18 (Ellison); others at unexpected locations were one at Loch Raven on Dec. 15 (Terry), a drake at Greenbrier SP on Dec. 24 (Weesner), a drake at Conowingo Lake on Jan. 2 (Hafner), and a drake on the Potomac River above Williamsport on Feb. 3 (Robert Klarquist). Highs for **Buffleheads** were 200 at Eastern Neck on Jan. 4 (Ellison +), 300 on the Potomac River, CH on Jan. 16 (Jett), and 150 at Havre de Grace on Jan. 25 (Eastman). There were 150 **Common Goldeneye** at Eastern Neck on Jan. 4 (Ellison +). Notable numbers of **Hooded Mergansers** were 114 at Mattawoman Creek on Dec. 7 (Jett, Allen Browne), 96 at Loch Raven on Dec. 24 (Graff, Paul Noell), 50 at Havre de Grace on Jan. 25 (Eastman), and 41 at Scotland on Feb. 13 (Cribb). **Common Mergansers** at unusual locations were a male at George Island Landing on Jan. 4 (Hafner, Baer), two at Beauvue on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 (Craig +), one female at Harper Creek, PRNAS on Jan. 31 (Rambo), and one at Ocean City on Feb. 1 (C. & D. Broderick). Common Mergansers concentrated as ice froze out birds from scattered sites peaking with 440 at Brighton Dam on Dec. 28 (Sheppard), 5,000 at the mouth of the Susquehanna River, CE/HA on Jan. 18-19 (Starling +), 200 at Piscataway on Jan. 20 (Waanders, Philip Kline), 80 at Kentmore Park, KE on Feb. 2 (Ellison, N. Martin), 150 in Talbot Co. opposite Gainey's Wharf on Feb. 2 (Lovelace), 2,000 at Charlestown on Feb. 23 (John), and 84 on the Chester River, KE/QA on Feb. 23 (Brighton). The high for **Red-breasted Mergansers** was 77 at Cliffs City on Feb. 21 (Ellison). Flocks of **Ruddy Ducks** included

2,000 at Poplar I. on Dec. 13 (Reese), 350 at Eastern Neck on Jan. 4 (Ellison +), and 400 at CBEC on Jan. 12 (Ellison).

*Diurnal Raptors, Pheasant.* An **Osprey** lingered through Dec. 15 at Brighton Dam (Sussman); early spring migrants were one on the Miles River, TA on Feb. 24 (*vide* Roslund), one at Patuxent River Park on Feb. 28 (Shenot), and one at Vienna, DO on Feb. 28 (Farner). The only reports of **Northern Goshawks** were an immature at Fort McHenry on Dec. 4–9 (Peters, Costley) and an immature at Takoma Park, MO on Jan. 21 (Kerry Stone). A dark morph **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen in Wicomico Co. near Vienna on Dec. 23 (Dyke) and a partial albino was southeast of Pocomoke City on Jan. 25 (Hafner, Stasz, Boyd). It was a good season for **Rough-legged Hawks**; those seen away from traditional wintering areas were one dark morph at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 2 (C. & D. Broderick), one at Dans Mountain on Dec. 7 (Sires, Kiddy, Churchill), one at Capitola, WI on Jan. 20 (C. & D. Broderick), one light morph near the Glades, GA on Jan. 20 (Kevin Dodge), one at Street, HA on Jan. 24 (Bowers), one at Truitts Landing on Feb. 1 (C. & D. Broderick), one light morph near Trout Run on Feb. 8 (Pope), and one near Middletown on Feb. 9 (Huy). The only **Golden Eagles** seen away from Blackwater were one at Dans Mountain on Dec. 7 (Sires) and a sub-adult near Langford, KE on Dec. 21 (Ellison +). Gregory Inskip reported six Golden Eagles wintering in southern Dorchester Co. this year. Reports of **Merlins** after the CBCs were one at PRNAS on Jan. 13 (Rambo), one at Perry Point through Jan. 17 (Starling), at least two at Hains Point on Jan. 20 (Mackiernan), one at Indian Creek WMA on Feb. 2 (Jett +), one south of Middletown through Feb. 10 (Huy), one at Scotland on Feb. 18 (Craig), and one near Violettes Lock on Feb. 28 (Simonson). Single **Peregrine Falcons** were seen at Conowingo Dam on Dec. 21–30 (Greg Futral +), near Clarksville, HO on Dec. 24 (Harry Fink), near Galena on Jan. 2 (Mann), at Silver Spring on Jan. 8 (Bob Elvander), and at Black Hill RP on Jan. 18 (Rob Pauline). A **Ring-necked Pheasant** at the National Colonial Farm, PG on Feb. 8 (Shaffer +) was unusual.

*Coots, Shorebirds.* Concentrations of **American Coots** were 300 at Piney Run on Jan. 11 (Ringler), 400 at Havre de Grace on Jan. 25 (Eastman), and 1,500 at Loch Raven on Feb. 2 (Jenkins). Two **Semipalmated Plovers** were very rare at Tilghman Island on Dec. 17 (Roslund). Rare in winter a **Piping Plover** was seen at Eagles Nest on Jan. 24 (Stasz, Hafner, Boyd). Wintering **Greater Yellowlegs** were 17 at Elliott Island on Dec. 30 (Arnold) and nine near Berlin on Jan. 6 (C. & D. Broderick). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at George Island Landing on Dec. 2 (C. & D. Broderick), two were at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Jan. 25 and one at Elliott Island on Jan. 26 (Hafner, Stasz, Boyd). An unusually high number of 18 **Willetts** was on Assateague on Jan. 5 including both subspecies but mostly westerns (Holbrook, Brighton, Starling). A **Marbled Godwit** was sighted at Ocean City on Feb. 1 (John Bjerke +). Two **Red Knots** remained at Ocean City on Jan. 4 (Hafner, Baer). Sightings of **Sanderlings** included 40 at Poplar Island on Dec. 13 (Reese), 16 at Flag Ponds on Dec. 19 (Ripley), 36 at Scotland on Dec. 19 (Craig +), one at Sandy Point SP on Dec. 19 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and 61 at PRNAS on Feb. 19 (Rambo). Late **Least Sandpipers** were one at Scotland on Dec. 6 (Craig) and three at Poplar I. on Dec. 13 (Reese). A **Purple Sandpiper** was at Scotland on Dec. 6–22 (Craig +) and 50 were at Poplar I. on Dec. 13 (Reese). **Dunlins** numbered 155 at PRNAS on Dec. 4 with 22 there on Feb. 13 (Rambo), 40 at Poplar I. on Dec. 13 (Reese), 20 at Tilghman I. on Dec. 17 (Roslund), 330 near Libertytown, WO on Jan. 6 (C. & D. Broderick), five at Point Lookout on Jan. 28 (Cribb), and 25 at Blackwater and 240 near Lewis Wharf, DO on Feb. 23 (H. Armistead). Single **Long-billed Dowitchers** were at Truitts Landing on Jan. 5 (Holbrook,

Brighton, Starling) and near Berlin on Jan. 6 (C. & D. Broderick). Migrant **American Woodcocks** were noted on Feb. 22, one at Dentsville, CH (F. Burggraf) and two at Taylors Island (Holbrook, Brighton).

*Gulls, Terns, Razorbill.* Among the **Laughing Gulls** at Upper Marlboro on Dec. 1 was one in breeding plumage (Mozurkewich). Late Laughers were two off Point Lookout on Dec. 8 (Cribb), several at Flag Ponds on Dec. 8 (Hamilton), three at Upper Marlboro on Dec. 17 (Shaffer), and one at Scotland on Dec. 19 (Craig +); two early spring migrants were at Ocean City on Feb. 25 (Dyke). The only **Little Gull** of the season was an adult at Ocean City on Feb. 25 (Dyke) and Mar. 8 (Czaplak, Todd). The only **Black-headed Gull** of the season was at Ocean City on Feb. 17 (C. & D. Broderick). Highs for **Bonaparte's Gulls** were 300 flying over Upper Marlboro on Dec. 1 (Mozurkewich), 2,739 in Chesapeake Bay off Point Lookout on Dec. 8 (Cribb), and 300 at Point Lookout on Feb. 16 (Cribb); unusual inland were six flying down the Potomac River at Sycamore Landing on Jan. 21 (Woodward). Highs for **Ring-billed Gulls** were 2,000 at Havre de Grace on Jan. 25 (Eastman) and 6,105 in southern Dorchester Co. on Feb. 23 (H. Armistead). A **Herring Gull** on the Potomac River at Weverton, WA on Jan. 9 (Perry) was unusual; 750 were at Havre de Grace on Jan. 25 (Eastman). Single first-winter **Thayer's Gulls** were at Beulah on Jan. 13 (Hafner) and the Charles Co. Landfill on Feb. 14 (Jett). Single first-winter **Iceland Gulls** were seen at Blackwater on Jan. 4 (Holbrook, Brighton), Beulah from Jan. 4 through Feb. 22 (Holbrook, Brighton +), Browns Station on Jan. 10 (Ricciardi, Hafner), Charles Co. Landfill on Jan. 20 (Jett, Brewer), Ocean City on Jan. 25 (Stasz, Hafner, Boyd), Jug Bay on Feb. 15 and Mar. 1 (Bystrak), and Assateague on Feb. 19 (Fran & John Juriga). Multiple numbers of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were three at Upper Marlboro on Dec. 17 with one remaining to Mar. 4 (Shaffer), two adults at the Worcester Co. Central Landfill on Jan. 4 (Hafner, Baer), four at Beulah from Jan. 13 through Feb. 1 (Hafner +) with 10 (three first-winter, one second-winter, three third-winter, three adults) on Mar. 1 (C. Harris), two adults at Browns Station Landfill on Jan. 10 (Ricciardi, Hafner), two at Anacostia Park on Feb. 1 (Hubbell), and two adults at Tanyard on Feb. 22 (Holbrook, Brighton). Lessers at other locations included one at Brighton Dam on Jan. 1-2 (Heffernan, Darcy +), an adult at the Somerset Co. Landfill on Jan. 26 (Hafner, Stasz, Boyd), and single second-winter birds at Salisbury and Berlin on Mar. 1 (C. Harris). Single first-winter **Glaucous Gulls** were at Brighton Dam on Jan. 1 (Heffernan, Darcy, Schwarz), Ocean City on Jan. 18 (Czaplak, Todd), Assateague on Jan. 24 (Stasz, Hafner, Boyd), and Upper Marlboro on Feb. 3 (Shaffer). Highs for **Great Black-backed Gulls** were 228 at Havre de Grace on Jan. 25 (Eastman) and 700 at Betterton, KE on Feb. 11 (Ellison). The **Kelp Gull** at Sandgates, SM was seen throughout the period (Kostenko +). A **Black-legged Kittiwake** was seen at Ocean City on Jan. 25 (Stasz, Hafner, Boyd) and on Feb. 17 (Dyke). Notable **Forster's Terns** were 21 in Chesapeake Bay off Point Lookout on Dec. 8 (Cribb), one near Ragged Point, DO on Jan. 4 (Holbrook, Brighton), and one at Scotland on Jan. 15 (Craig). A **Razorbill** was seen at Ocean City from Feb. 21 through Mar. 5 (Ross Gallardy +).

*Owls, Hummingbirds, Phoebe, Shrikes, Vireo.* A **Snowy Owl** was seen at Dans Mountain on Dec. 7 (Sires) and one was reported near North Glade, GA on Feb. 3 or 4 (*vide* Pope). A **Long-eared Owl** was found in Montgomery Co. on Dec. 14 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Top sightings of **Short-eared Owls** were six at Blackwater on Dec. 30 (Arnold), five at PRNAS on Jan. 22 (Rambo), three at Elliott I. on Jan. 26 (H. Armistead), and three at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 8 (Arnold). A **Rufous Hummingbird** visited a feeder near Claiborne, TA for at least two weeks through Dec. 15 (*vide* Roslund) and one was at a feeder at Welcome, CH from early December through mid January (*vide* Jett). Wintering **Eastern Phoebe**s included single

birds near Finksburg, CL on Jan. 18 (Ringler), at Wye Research Center on Jan. 22 (Poet), at Snydersburg, CL on Jan. 22 (Schwemmer), at Hughes Hollow on Jan. 28 (Woodward), and at Lake Elkhorn on Feb. 1 (Michelle Stewart, Barry Miller). Reports of **Loggerhead Shrikes** were one near Darnestown on Dec. 12 (Czaplak), one at Sharpsburg, WA on Dec. 13 (Wilbur Hersherberger), and one near Friendsville, GA on Jan. 1 and Mar. 9 (Courtney Englar). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was seen at Hickory Point, WO from Dec. 30 through Jan. 25 (Hoffman +).

*Crows, Larks, Swallows, Nuthatches, Wrens.* The 5,575 **American Crows** at Mountain Lake Park on Dec. 14 (Pope) made an impressive tally for Garrett Co. About 120 **Fish Crows** were at Beulah on Feb. 1 (Ellison+). Flocks of **Horned Larks** included 310 near Chewsville, WA on Dec. 8 (Weesner), 125 at Scotland on Dec. 12 (Cribb), 400 near Ridgely on Jan. 13 (Hafner, Baer), 200 near Lilypons on Jan. 18 (P. Webb +), and 330 near Massey on Feb. 7 (Ellison); a leucistic lark was seen at Bruceville, TA on Feb. 7 (Brighton). About 75 wintering **Tree Swallows** were seen at Deal Island WMA on Jan. 11 (C. & D. Broderick) and six early spring migrants were at Blackwater on Feb. 23 (H. Armistead). On Jan. 12 Craig and Bishop found eight **Brown-headed Nuthatches** east of Broomes Island, CT. Wintering **House Wrens** were single birds near Berlin and near Girdletree, WO on Jan. 4 (Hafner, Baer), the former still being seen on Mar. 9 (Ellison, N. Martin), near Taylors Landing on Jan. 5 (Holbrook, Brighton, Starling), and near Reeses Corner, KE on Jan. 25 (Ellison). Hafner and Baer found the following **Sedge Wrens**: one at Truitts Landing and one at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Jan. 4 and one at Saint Lawrence Neck, WO on Jan. 5. Three **Marsh Wrens** were at Assateague on Jan. 5 (Hafner, Baer) and one was at CBEC on Feb. 8 (Dodson +).

*Robins, Mimids, Pipits, Waxwings.* **American Robins** invaded the state in huge numbers during January when birds that were continuing south collided with birds that were migrating north earlier than usual. Among the notable flocks seen were 250 at the National Arboretum on Jan. 11 (Pisano +), 300 at Eldersburg, CL on Feb. 2 (Ringler), and 400 at Soapstone Valley, DC on Feb. 18 (Waanders). **Gray Catbirds** wintered in above average numbers this season. Among the many reports were two near Taylors Landing on Jan. 5 (Holbrook, Brighton, Starling), one at Cromwell Valley Park on Jan. 9 (Georgia McDonald), one at Wye Island on Jan. 10 (B. & K. Harris), one at Rock Creek, MO on Jan. 16 (Toni Hartman), two at Hughes Hollow on Jan. 28 (Woodward), one at Indian Creek WMA on Feb. 2 (Jett +), two at Havre de Grace on Feb. 9 (Larkin), one at Tunis Mills on Feb. 10 (Roslund), one at PRNAS on Feb. 19 (Rambo), two at Point Lookout on Feb. 20 (Craig), and one at Terrapin on Feb. 23 (Ringler +). A **Northern Mockingbird** was north of Oakland, GA on Jan. 23 (Pope). Multiple sightings of **Brown Thrashers** this winter were two at Elliott Island on Jan. 26 (H. Armistead), three at Indian Creek WMA on Feb. 2 (Jett +), two at Bay View, WO on Feb. 8 (Arnold), 12 in southern Kent Co. on Feb. 21 (Ellison), and one near Easton and one near Trappe, TA on Feb. 22 (Holbrook, Brighton); others of note were one at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Feb. 1 (Hubbell), one at MPEA on Feb. 7 (Holbrook) through Mar. 12 (Ott +), one at CBEC on Feb. 8 (Dodson +), one at Denton on Feb. 17 (Bennett), one near Havre de Grace on Feb. 18 (Eastman), one at Federalsburg on Feb. 19 (Glime), and one at Dentsville, CH for a few weeks in February (F. Burggraf). Flocks of **American Pipits** this winter included 60 at PRNAS on Dec. 5 (Rambo), 35 at Kenilworth Park on Dec. 28 (Hilton, Pisano), 52 at Chesapeake Farms on Jan. 4 (Ellison +), 72 at New Windsor, CL on Jan. 18 (Ringler), 60 at Chaptico, SM on Jan. 22 (Craig, Cribb), 150 at Wye Island on Jan. 30 (Poet), and 60 at Scotland on Feb. 26 (Craig). A **Cedar Waxwing** with an orange-tipped tail was seen at PRNAS on Dec. 31 (Craig). Flocks of waxwings included 100 at the National Arboretum on Jan. 11 (Pisano +) and 185 at Rigby's Folly on Feb. 9 (H. Armistead).

*Warblers.* Single **Orange-crowned Warblers** were at Scotland on Dec. 14 (Craig), Upper Marlboro on Jan. 9 (Shaffer), and Elk Neck, CE through Jan. 24 (Charlie Gant +). A **Nashville Warbler** at Herring Run Park, BC on Dec. 8 (E. & N. Kirschbaum) was a late migrant and one seen at Cherry Hill Park, BC on Dec. 28 (Bob Rineer, Dave Walbeck) and again on Jan. 17 (Costley) was attempting to winter. Wintering **Pine Warblers** included three at Parsonsburg from Jan. 11 through February (Pitney), one female at Hance Point on Feb. 3 (Starling), three at Dameron from Feb. 15 through the end of the period (Craig), and three near Chingville on Feb. 16 and four there on Feb. 28 (C. & T. Dew). An immature female **Prairie Warbler** was seen at Eagle Cove, PG on Nov. 25 and Dec. 16 (*vide* Ringler). Sightings of **Palm Warblers** were five (including both subspecies) near Oak Grove on Dec. 15 (Lovelace), one western at California on Jan. 5 (Rambo), two westerns at Newark, WO on Jan. 5 (Hafner, Baer), one at Wye Island on Jan. 10 (B. & K. Harris), and one western near Ridge on Jan. 28 (Cribb). Wintering **Common Yellowthroats** included one at Fort McHenry from Dec. 6 into January (Peters +), one near Ironshire, WO on Jan. 5 (Hafner, Baer), and one at Point Lookout on Jan. 21 (Cribb).

*Sparrows, Longspurs, Snow Buntings.* **American Tree Sparrows** on the Coastal Plain were one at Greensboro on Feb. 7-10 (Scudder), one near Berlin on Feb. 20 (C. & D. Broderick), one at Taylors Island on Feb. 22 (Holbrook, Brighton), one near Golts, KE on Feb. 23 (Brighton), one at Kings Landing Park, CT on Feb. 25 (Harten), one near Centreville and six near Barclay, QA on Feb. 26 (Holbrook), and one at Waldorf on Feb. 28 (Jett). Sightings of **Chipping Sparrows** included one at Bradenbaugh, HA on Jan. 4 (Dennis Kirkwood), one in Howard Co. on Jan. 6 (Lisa Colangelo), two near Manchester, CL on Jan. 18 (Schwemmer), 18 at Denton on Jan. 29 (Steve Westre), one at Swansfield, Columbia on Feb. 15-17 (Tveekrem), one at Tunis Mills on Feb. 17 (Roslund), four at Parsonsburg on Feb. 17 (Pitney), one at Croom, PG on Feb. 26 (Harten), and two near Chingville on Feb. 28 (C. & T. Dew). One **Clay-colored Sparrow** was seen near Berlin from Dec. 28 through Mar. 9 (Stasz +) and two were there from Jan. 4 through Feb. 8 (Hafner, Baer +). There were few reports of wintering **Vesper Sparrows** with two at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Jan. 4 (Hafner, Baer), one near Denton on Feb. 9 (Holbrook, Brighton), one near Berlin on Feb. 20 (C. & D. Broderick), and one near Golts, KE on Feb. 23 (Brighton). Thirteen **Savannah Sparrows** were at Wye Island on Jan. 5 (B. & K. Harris) and 95 in northern Kent Co. on Feb. 15 (Ellison, N. Martin). The only **Le Conte's Sparrow** of the season was at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Jan. 4 (Hafner, Baer). A **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was seen at Flag Ponds on Dec. 10 (Ripley, Bystrak) and another was at Assateague on Jan. 5 (Hafner, Baer). The only **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow** reported was at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Jan. 4 (Hafner, Baer). The only **Seaside Sparrow** reported was at Fairmount WMA on Jan. 26 (Hafner, Stasz, Boyd). Notable **Fox Sparrows** were two at Rigby's Folly on Feb. 9 (H. Armistead), one at Federalsburg on Feb. 11 (Glime), one at Mariner Point Park, HA on Feb. 12 (Powers), nine near Melitota, KE on Feb. 15 (Ellison, N. Martin), and an astounding 75 in the Point Lookout/Scotland area on Feb. 17 (Craig, Cribb). **Lincoln's Sparrows** are rarely reported in winter but one was at Layhill on Dec. 14 (Sussman), one near Girdletree, WO on Jan. 4 (Hafner, Baer), one at Parkton, BA on Jan. 25 (E. & N. Kirschbaum), and one near Berlin on Mar. 8 (Czaplak, Todd). A partial albino **White-throated Sparrow** spent its second winter at Hancock, WA through Mar. 10 (Smith). There were two reports of **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow**, one at Scotland on Dec. 14 (Craig) and one at Chesapeake Farms from Dec. 21 through Jan. 4 (Ellison +). An immature **Harris's Sparrow** was seen at a feeder near Manchester, CL from Jan. 18 through Mar. 7 (Schwemmer +) and, according to the residents, may have been present since December. Single Oregon subspecies of **Dark-eyed Junco** were reported at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 28 (M. O'Brien), Pocomoke City on Jan. 25 (Stasz, Hafner, Boyd), and Queenstown on Feb.

16-28 (Poet). There were many reports of **Lapland Longspurs** including one near Hurlock on Dec. 5 (Brighton), three near Chewsville, WA on Dec. 8 with one remaining to Jan. 4 (Weesner), 24 at PRNAS on Dec. 16 (Rambo +), three near Lilypons on Jan. 18 (P. Webb +), 24 near Ridgely on Jan. 18 (Poet, Diane Cole), one near Ironshire, WO on Feb. 8 (Holbrook, Brighton), one near Massey on Feb. 15 (Ellison, N. Martin), four at Scotland on Feb. 19 with two into early March (Craig, Cribb), one near Queenstown on Feb. 23 (Ringler +), one near Golts, KE on Feb. 23 (Brighton), one near Ruthsburg, QA on Feb. 26 (Poet), one near Millington on Feb. 26 (Holbrook), and one in Howard Co. south of Sykesville on Mar. 3-9 (Wilkinson +). Reports of **Snow Buntings** included three at Fort McHenry on Dec. 10 (Peters, Costley), 34 at Poplar I. on Dec. 13 (Reese), one at Fulton on Dec. 14 (Osenton, Solem), three at Flag Ponds on Dec. 19 (Ripley), one at Takoma Park, MO on Feb. 17-18 (Tim Male), one near Massey on Feb. 23 (Brighton), and 18 near Ridgely on Feb. 23-26 (Scudder).

*Cardinaline Finches, Icterids, Cardueline Finches.* A leucistic female **Northern Cardinal** was at Jefferson Patterson Park for about a week in late January (Bell). An immature male **Painted Bunting** was at a feeder at Rio Vista, St. Michaels on Dec. 2-16 (Jean Crump +). Harry Armistead noted the arrival of **Red-winged Blackbirds** at Rigby's Folly on Feb. 9 with 22 males, many singing. Reports of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were a female at Oak Grove on Dec. 15 (Lovelace) and a female at Churchville, HA on Dec. 28 (D. Webb, Mike Burchett, Jean Wheeler). There were 35 **Rusty Blackbirds** at Jesterville, WI on Jan. 10 (C. & D. Broderick). The only **Brewer's Blackbird** of the season was a female near East New Market, DO on Feb. 22 (Holbrook, Brighton). An aberrant **Common Grackle** with two white tail feathers was at California on Feb. 17 (Bell). About 530 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were at Broad Neck, KE on Dec. 12 (Ellison, N. Martin). Reports of wintering **Baltimore Orioles** were one at Eutaw Forest, CH from November into March (*vide* Jett), an immature at Susquehanna SP on Jan. 2 (Hafner), one at Lock 38, C&O Canal, WA on Jan. 9 (Perry), and an adult male near Warfieldsburg, CL from January through the end of the period (Richard Jones +). **Common Redpolls** were scarce with two at Tanyard on Dec. 7 (Engle), one at Timberleigh, HO on Dec. 9 (Diane Nagengast), and one at Darnestown on Feb. 24 (Simonson). **Pine Siskins** were also scarce with one at Herrington Manor SP on Jan. 31 (Pope) and one at Blackwater on Feb. 22 (Holbrook, Brighton).

*Exotics.* An apparent hybrid **Greylag Goose X Canada Goose** was at Lake Needwood, MO on Dec. 7 (Marko). A **Harris's Hawk** being flown by a falconer at Terrapin on Feb. 9 caused some short-lived excitement (B. & K. Harris). Two **Nutmeg Mannikins** appeared at a Bel Air feeder from November through Jan. 15 (Cheicante).



## SPRING MIGRATION: MARCH 1-MAY 31, 2003

The extremely wet weather that marked much of this season resulted in many late passerine migrants including some into June. Record numbers of Red-necked Grebes produced the major highlight of the season.

**Loons. Red-throated Loons** around the Chesapeake Bay region included two at Solomons on Mar. 1 (Holbrook, Brighton), one at Eastern Neck on Mar. 2 and five there on Mar. 23 (Ellison, N. Martin), one on the Miles River, TA on Mar. 2-11 (Roslund +), one at Port Tobacco on Mar. 8 (Jett, Brewer), two at Bivalve and one at Tyaskin, WI on Mar. 15 (Ringler), four at Elliott Island on Mar. 22 (Ellison, Mann), three at Fort McHenry on Apr. 2 (Peters +), one on the Potomac River in DC on Apr. 3-6 (Hubbell +), one at Edgewood on Apr. 4 (Eastman), one at Grove Neck on Apr. 6 (John +), three at Jonas Green SP, AA on Apr. 11 (Smith), one at CBEC on Apr. 12 (Mann +), three at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 19 (Ricciardi +), one at Jug Bay on Apr. 19 (Mozurkewich), one at Tyaskin, WI on Apr. 19 (Brighton), one at Crystal Beach, CE on Apr. 25 (Ellison), and one at Morgantown on Apr. 26 (Jett, Brewer +). At the coast 30 Red-throateds were at Ocean City on Mar. 9 (Ellison, N. Martin), eight at Truitts Landing on Apr. 6 and 45 flew over Mystic Harbour on Apr. 13 (N. & F. Saunders); a late bird flew by Eagles Nest on May 30 (Hafner). Piedmont reports of Red-throateds were one at Lake Roland on Apr. 1-5 (E. Kirschbaum +) and five at Loch Raven on Apr. 13 (Terry). **Common Loons** that were probably wintering included one at PRNAS on Mar. 2 (Rambo +), one at Perry Point on Mar. 5 (Starling), 30 at Ocean City on Mar. 5 (Vaughn, Jenion), and one at Claiborne, TA on Mar. 11 (Roslund). The first inland migrant Common Loon was at Centennial Park on Mar. 22 (Ott, Arnold +). Elsewhere this was followed by fly-over numbers of 42 on Apr. 12 and 55 on Apr. 13 at Fort Smallwood (Ricciardi +), 100 at Kent Narrows on Apr. 16 (Nielsen), and 40 at UMCF on Apr. 19 (Ott). Lingered migrants on May 29 were one at Centennial (Bob Solem, Tveekrem), one at Pylesville (J. & L. Fry), and four at Poplar Island (Reese); another was at Ocean City on May 30 (Hafner).

**Pied-billed & Horned Grebes.** Late **Pied-billed Grebes** were one at Chesapeake Farms on May 18 (Ellison, N. Martin) and two at Lake Elkhorn on May 22 (Coskren, Solem). Concentrations of **Horned Grebes** were 33 off South Pt. on Mar. 9 (Ellison, N. Martin), 57 in Eastern Bay, QA on Mar. 16 (Crabtree), 10 at Rocky Gap on Mar. 22 (Arnold), 80 at Fort Smallwood on Mar. 23 (Ricciardi +), 44 at Eastern Neck on Mar. 23 (Ellison, N. Martin), and 32 off Rigby's Folly on Apr. 13 (H. Armistead); late were one at Loch Raven on May 14 (Jenkins) and two at Poplar Island on May 29 (Reese).

**Red-necked Grebes.** The fallout of **Red-necked Grebes** this spring topped all previous years. After the typical February arrivals, birds appeared throughout the state with unprecedented numbers on the Potomac River. Reports were too numerous to mention all, but here are the most significant for each county: In Worcester County the peak of 13 at Ocean City was seen on Mar. 9 (Holmes). The only Somerset County report was of one at Rumbly Point and one at Crisfield on Mar. 30 (Holbrook, Brighton). In Dorchester County three were at Madison and one at Elliott Island on Mar. 7 and a late bird was at Hooper Island on May 12 (Willey). In Talbot County seven were at Poplar Island on Mar. 12, two remaining on May 29 (Reese). In Queen Anne's County seven were at Kent Narrows on Mar. 16 and one late bird at Wye Island on May 1 (Poet). The high for Kent County was four at Eastern Neck on Mar. 29 (Mann +); another was at Great Oak Pond on Apr. 18 (Ellison). In St. Mary's County two were at Point Lookout on Apr. 16 (Cribb). In Calvert County four were at Lower Marlboro on



Mar. 12 (Ripley) and the last was one at Solomons on May 1 (Hamilton). In Charles County nine were at Smallwood SP on Mar. 8 and one at Cobb Island on May 3 (Carol Gheblian +). In Prince George's County on Mar. 8 Mozurkewich saw three on the Potomac River south of National Harbor and five at Piscataway, and Jack Saba found four on Lake Artemesia; a late bird was at the mouth of Piscataway Creek on May 25 (Deanna Dawson). In Anne Arundel County seven were on Jug Bay on Mar. 1 (Bystrak), five were at Sandy Point SP on Mar. 8 (Scott Baron, Jason Platt), four were on Furnace Creek on Mar. 8 (Dodson), and one was at Stoney Beach on Apr. 20 (Ringler). In Baltimore 13 were at Fort McHenry on Mar. 4 (Peters) and in Baltimore County nine were at Loch Raven on Apr. 6–13 (Terry, Jenkins, Lev), one of which remained to the 27th (Terry). On the Susquehanna River, HA/CE 11 were seen from Lapidum and another 11 were on Conowingo Lake on Mar. 17 (Iliff, G. Armistead). Also in Harford County were three at Pylesville on Mar. 22–23 (J. & L. Fry), seven at Havre de Grace on Apr. 6 (Nielsen), and two at Lapidum on May 28 (Hafner). Additional Cecil County reports were nine at Perry Point on Mar. 5 and one at Chestnut Point on May 28 (Starling). In DC 23 were in the Washington Channel on Mar. 13 (Holmes) and a late bird was off Daingerfield Island on May 24 (Bill Cross). In Howard County one was at Lake Elkhorn from Mar. 22 through Apr. 12 (Arnold +) and one was on Stone Lake through May 10 (Osenton). In Carroll County three were at Piney Run and one at Westminster Reservoir on Mar. 23 with two remaining at the former site on Apr. 25 (Ringler). Montgomery took top honors for numbers with 116 at Seneca on Mar. 6 (Czaplak), 30 at Little Seneca Lake on Mar. 17 (Weesner), one on Seneca Creek from May 15 through June 1 (Czaplak +), and one on Clopper Lake through June 8 (Powell). Four birds were at the mouth of the Monocacy River in Frederick County on Mar. 2 (Holbrook, Brighton). Perry found Red-necked Grebes scattered across Washington County on Mar. 18 with six at Dam #4, four at Dam #5, two at Williamsport, two at Big Pool, and two at Dargan Bend; other reports were 15 at Williamsport on Mar. 5 (Shirley Ford), one at Greenbrier SP on Mar. 22 (Weesner), 12 at Big Pool on Mar. 23 (Alexander), and a late one at Williamsport on May 10 (Weesner). In Allegany County four were at Cumberland on Mar. 1–8 (Kiddy +) and three at Rocky Gap on Mar. 22 (Holbrook, Brighton). Garrett County reports were three at Jennings Randolph Lake on Mar. 22 (Holbrook, Brighton) and one at Deep Creek Lake on Mar. 27 (Pope). None was reported from Caroline or Wicomico counties.

*Tube-noses, Gannets.* On the Mar. 15 pelagic trip 105 **Northern Fulmars** were seen in Maryland waters (Guris +). On a May 31 pelagic trip 92 **Greater Shearwaters**, 560 **Sooty Shearwaters**, and 82 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** were seen in Maryland waters (Ednie +). **Northern Gannets** entered the Chesapeake in good numbers again this spring with notable reports of six at Point Lookout on Mar. 1 (Holbrook, Brighton), 114 off Roaring Point on Mar. 29 (Dyke), 12 in Harris Creek, TA on Mar. 30 (Roslund +), six off Rumbly Point on Mar. 30 (Holbrook, Brighton), nine off Flag Ponds and six off North Beach on Apr. 8 (Ripley), 63 at PRNAS on Apr. 10 (Rambo), two off CBEC on Apr. 12 (Mann +), five off Rigby's Folly on Apr. 13 and one there on the 27th (H. Armistead), and three off Poplar Island on Apr. 18 (Reese). At Ocean City on May 23 Powell and Sollers saw at least 30 gannets and 10 were seen on the May 31 pelagic trip (Ednie +).

*Pelicans, Cormorants.* Five **American White Pelicans** were seen from Leesylvania SP, Virginia on the Potomac River in Charles County waters on May 12–14 (Laura Catterton +). Norm Saunders saw a **Brown Pelican** flying up Sinepuxent Bay, WO on Mar. 22, one at Fort McHenry on Apr. 21 (Peters) was extraordinary, and one at Cobb Island on Apr. 26 (Jett, Brewer +) was notable. Notable sightings of **Double-crested Cormorants** were nine flying up the Potomac River, DC on Mar. 5 (Pisano) and 160 doing the same on Mar. 29 (Jed Kusterer), 140 at Great Shoals Light, WI on Mar. 15 (Ringler), two at Point Lookout and eight

at Leonardtown on Mar. 16 (Ringler, Ellis), two at Broadford Lake on Mar. 23 (Pope), birds occupying 11 nests at Cabin John, MO on Mar. 30 (C. Harris), 32 at Loch Raven on Apr. 6 (Terry, Jenkins, Lev), seven flying over Randallstown on Apr. 12 (Costley), 15 at Noland's Ferry on Apr. 12 (Churchill, Kiddy), thousands at Conowingo Dam on Apr. 20 and hundreds there on May 31 (Eastman), 2,000 at Ocean City on Apr. 26 (Hoffman +), 214 at Joppatowne on May 5 (Ziolkowski), and 23 at Lake Kittamaqundi on May 24 (Martha Chestem). The last **Great Cormorants** of the season were single birds seen on Apr. 27 at Ocean City (N. & F. Saunders) and Susquehanna Flats, CE (Starling).

*Herons, Ibises.* **American Bitterns** were reported from 18 locations including two at Hughes Hollow on Apr. 10 (Powell) and Apr. 16 (Hubbell), three at Harford Glen on Apr. 26 (Cheicante), and single late birds at Mears Farm on May 14 (Arnold, Kucera), Elliott Island on May 18 (H. Armistead), and near Bridgetown, QA on May 25 (Hilary & Ken Staver). The first **Least Bittern** of the season was found at Patuxent River Park on Apr. 18 (Holbrook), one was heard at Hughes Hollow on May 1-10 (Simonson +), one was at Tanyard on May 16 (Holbrook), one was captured in East Columbia on May 19 but later died (P. Webb), and one was heard at Sandy Point SP on May 27-28 (Schreitz). Migrant **Great Blue Herons** included six flying over Soldiers Delight on Mar. 22 (Costley), seven flying into Piney Run on Mar. 23 (Ringler), and seven flying past Fort Smallwood on Apr. 25 (Ricciardi +). Early **Great Egrets** were 14 at Deal Island WMA on Mar. 15 (D. Burggraf), two at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Mar. 16 (Mackiernan, Cooper), one at Ocean City on Mar. 16 (Arnold), one on Catoctin Creek near Middletown on Mar. 22 (Holbrook, Brighton), one at Piney Run on Mar. 23 (Ringler), one at Hughes Hollow on Mar. 24 (Woodward), and one at Lake Elkhorn on Mar. 24, three there on May 10 and one remained to May 23 (Neri +). Willey counted 101 Great Egrets at Blackwater on Apr. 4 and the best inland counts were four each at Loch Raven on Apr. 6 (Terry, Jenkins, Lev) and Harford Glen from Apr. 26 through May 11 (Cheicante +); late birds were one at Chesapeake Farms on May 17 (Ellison), two at Hart-Miller on May 17 (Arnold), and one at Swan Harbor Farm on May 29 (Cupp). Most remarkable were Czaplak's sightings near Sandy Hook, WA where three birds were seen on Apr. 26 and two occupied nests were found on May 3 on an island in the Potomac River. The only inland **Snowy Egret** was at Lake Elkhorn on May 10 (Wilkinson, Jane & Ralph Geuder); others of note were one at North East on Apr. 25 (Starling), one at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on May 1 (Paul), and one at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla +). Willey saw the first **Little Blue Heron** of the season at Blackwater on Apr. 4; one flying over Rock Creek Park on May 2 (Mackiernan, Cooper) was extraordinary. The first **Tricolored Heron** of the season was at Blackwater on Mar. 22 (Ellison, Mann). Cribb saw the first **Cattle Egret** of the year at Scotland on Mar. 22; also of note were 12 at Warwick, CE on Apr. 25 (Ellison), one at Fulton on Apr. 27 (Wilkinson +), and one at Anacostia Park on May 17 (Pisano, Bowen). Early **Green Herons** were single birds at Centennial on Apr. 3 (Holdridge), Ashton on Apr. 4 (Sussman), Lake Needwood, MO on Apr. 8 (Marko), and Tuckahoe SP, QA on Apr. 12 (Ellison, N. Martin). Maryanne Dolan reported on Mar. 17 that 75 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** had returned to nest sites at the National Zoo, DC. Other Black-crowns of note were one at Lake Elkhorn on Mar. 27 (Michelle Stewart), one heard flying over Waldorf on May 6 (Jett), two flying over Middletown on May 11 (Alexander), one at Oak Grove on May 18 (Lovelace), and seven at Conowingo Dam on May 31 (Eastman). Single early **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were seen at Mystic Harbour on Mar. 22 (N. Saunders), Lochearn, BA on Mar. 26 (P. Webb), and Sligo Creek, MO on Mar. 27 (Kerry Stone); others included one at Ocean City on Apr. 26 (Hoffman +), one at Hughes Hollow on May 10-19 (Woodward), and one at Mears Farm on May 20 (Arnold, Kucera). **Glossy Ibis** made widespread appearances including three birds flying over Scotland on Mar. 24 (Cribb, Craig), 17 at Blackwater on Apr. 4 (Willey), 27 at Truitts Landing on Apr. 6 (N. &

F. Saunders), 25 on Kent Island on Apr. 9 (B. Harris), two at Perry Point on Apr. 11 and three there on the 13th (Starling), one at Bladensburg on Apr. 13 (Callahan +), two near Dameron on Apr. 14 (Stiles), one flying over Fort McHenry on Apr. 16 (Peters +), 85 at Newark, WO on Apr. 26 (Hoffman +), three flying over Sykesville on Apr. 27 (D. Harvey), one flying over Hughes Hollow on Apr. 29 (Hubbell), two flying over Allens Fresh on May 17 (Jett, Brewer), and one at Hart-Miller that remained through May 31 (Scarpulla +).

*Geese, Swans.* Migrant **Snow Geese** at unusual locations were three, including two blues, at College Park, PG on Mar. 3 (Hafner), two at Mountain Lake, GA on Mar. 7 (Pope), 15 at Clarksville, HO on Mar. 10 (Wilkerson), and 70, including one blue, flying over Webster, HA on Mar. 16 (M. Webb). Three broods of downy young **Canada Geese** were at Blackwater on Apr. 27 (H. Armistead). The 25 **Brant** at Eagles Nest on May 23 (Powell, Sollers) were late in migrating. Interesting reports of **Mute Swans** were five on the Potomac River opposite Williamsport on May 5 (Shirley Ford), five at Spesutie Narrows, HA on Mar. 15 (D. Webb), a pair courting at Solomons on Mar. 16 (Ringler, Ellis), and a nest with four eggs in the Gunpowder River Marsh, HA on May 4 (Ziolkowski). The last flock of **Tundra Swans** reported was of 120 birds over Marriottsville, HO on Mar. 16 (Cullison); unusually late were one immature on Savage River Reservoir, GA on May 4 (Pope) and two at Allens Fresh on May 17 (Jett, Brewer).

*Dabbling Ducks.* High counts of **Gadwall** were 86 at Beauvue on Mar. 1 (Holbrook, Brighton) and 49 at Elliott Island on Mar. 22 (Ellison, Mann); late birds were a pair at Halthorpe Ponds, BA through May 12 with the male seen through May 28 (Brian Sykes) suggestive of attempted breeding. Highs for **American Wigeon** were 115 at Loch Raven on Mar. 11 (Paul Noell, John Landers) and 50 at Courthouse Point WMA on Mar. 16 (Watson-Whitmyre); late was a drake near Blackwater on May 18 (H. Armistead, Willey). The first **Blue-winged Teal** of the season were one at Easton on Mar. 9 (Allen +), one at Chain Bridge, DC on Mar. 15 (Hubbell), and two at Hughes Hollow on Mar. 22 (Simonson) and a late migrant male was at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla +). There were 84 **Northern Shovelers** at Chesapeake Farms on Mar. 23 (Ellison, N. Martin) and eight at Centennial on Apr. 7 (Ott); late were two at Great Oak Pond on Apr. 26 (Ellison) and an immature male at Hains Point on May 17 (Pisano). Estimates of **Northern Pintail** flocks included 250 at Oak Grove on Mar. 1 (Lovelace), 200 at Blackwater on Mar. 1 (Alexander), and 200 at Courthouse Point WMA on Mar. 16 (Watson-Whitmyre); late were a pair at Blackwater on May 18 (H. Armistead, Willey). **Green-winged Teal** peaked at 285 at Blackwater on Apr. 10 (H. Armistead) and a late male was near there on May 18 (H. Armistead, Willey).

*Diving Ducks.* The 118 **Canvasbacks** at Piney Run on Mar. 23 (Ringler) made an unusually high inland count and late migrants were two on Fishing Bay on May 10–18 (H. Armistead +). Interesting reports of **Redheads** were 27 at Beauvue on Mar. 1 (Holbrook, Brighton), an unusually light-colored individual at Loch Raven on Mar. 5 (John Landers +), 185 at Piscataway Creek on Mar. 8 (Mozurkewich), 545 at Hoopersville, DO on Mar. 9 (H. Armistead), 50 at Loch Raven on Mar. 9 (Terry +), and one lingering on Clopper Lake on May 25 (Powell). Highs for **Ring-necked Ducks** were 151 at Loch Raven on Mar. 15 (Lev), 48 at Aberdeen Proving Ground on Mar. 16 (D. & M. Webb), 100 at Courthouse Point WMA on Mar. 16 (Watson-Whitmyre), 100 at Beauvue on Mar. 16 (Ringler, Ellis), 89 near Burkittsville, FR on Mar. 17 (Weesner), 109 at Liberty Lake, CL on Mar. 22 (Gail Frantz), and 167 at Hughes Hollow on Mar. 24 (Woodward). Interesting reports of **Greater Scaup** were seven at Mountain Lake, GA on Mar. 7 (Pope), four males in the Tidal Basin on Mar. 11 (Bowen), two at Pylesville on Mar. 18–23 (J. & L. Fry), one at Piney Run on Apr. 6 (Ringler),

two at Chesapeake Farms on May 17-18 (Ellison, N. Martin), one at Clopper Lake on May 26 (Powell), and two, including one leucistic bird, at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla +). Paula Sullivan estimated at least 4,000 **Lesser Scaup** on Mar. 9 on Piscataway Creek. Late Lessers were one at Hance Point on May 6 (Starling), two on Fishing Bay on May 18 (H. Armistead), one at Worton Landing, KE on May 18 (Ellison, N. Martin), and one at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla +). An immature male **Common Eider** was seen at Ocean City through Mar. 22 (Sussman) from earlier. A drake **Harlequin Duck** flew by Ocean City on Mar. 15 (Ellison +) and a drake was seen at Point Lookout from Apr. 23 through May 1 (Fred Pierce +). Interesting sightings of **Surf Scoters** were one at Fort McHenry on Mar. 2 (Brighton, Holbrook), 535 on the Choptank River off Rigby's Folly on Apr. 13 with 17 remaining on May 27 (H. Armistead), three off Assateague on May 18 (Holbrook, Brighton), an adult male at Clopper Lake on May 18-26 (Powell +), and 17 at Poplar Island on May 29 (Reese). Reports of **White-winged Scoters** were few with a drake at Seneca on Mar. 2 (Czaplak), four at Eastern Neck on Mar. 7 (Ellison, Mann), an immature at the Mouth of the Monocacy, FR on Mar. 8 (Ringler +), one at Fort McHenry on Mar. 10 (Peters), four at Point Lookout on Mar. 16 (Ringler, Ellis), two at North Beach on Apr. 8 (Ripley), five at Rocky Gap on May 17 (Churchill), and one at Poplar Island on May 29 (Reese). Reports of **Black Scoters** were even fewer with 200 at Point Lookout on Mar. 16 (Ringler, Ellis), one female on Fishing Bay on May 18 (H. Armistead), and one at Poplar Island on May 29 (Reese). Interesting reports of **Long-tailed Ducks** were one on the the Potomac River in DC and PG as seen from Jones Point, Virginia on Mar. 1 (Hilton, Shannon), a female at Point of Rocks, FR on Mar. 2 (Brighton, Holbrook), 125 at Eastern Neck on Mar. 2 (Ellison, N. Martin), two at Greenbrier SP on Mar. 20 (Weesner), four on Clopper Lake on Apr. 5 (Powell), and three at Poplar Island on May 29 (Reese). Flocks of **Buffleheads** included 250 at Eastern Neck on Mar. 23 (Ellison, N. Martin), 300 off Assateague on Apr. 5 (N. & F. Saunders), and 250 at Truitts Landing on Apr. 6 (N. & F. Saunders); late were two at Lake Elkhorn on May 21-26 (Wilkinson +). About 80 **Common Goldeneyes** were also at Eastern Neck on Mar. 23 (Ellison, N. Martin). A female **Hooded Merganser** with two downy young was seen near Elkridge, HO on Apr. 28 (Maloney), another female with 5-7 young was at Chino Farms in late April or early May (Harry Sears), and a female with four downy young was at West Ocean City on May 4-18 (Powell +). About 5,000 **Common Mergansers** were off Charlestown on Mar. 2-3 (John, Starling) and on Mar. 8 flocks of 200 were on Piscataway Creek (Mozurkewich) and at Mattawoman NEA (Jett); late were six at Hance Point on Apr. 20 (Starling) and four at Deal Island WMA on Apr. 25 (C. & D. Broderick). The best numbers of **Red-breasted Mergansers** were 100 off Assateague on Mar. 1 (Alexander), 70 at Cliffs City and 24 at Eastern Neck on Mar. 2 (Ellison, N. Martin), 21 on Piscataway Creek on Mar. 8 (Mozurkewich), 20 at Mattawoman NEA on Mar. 8 (Jett), 24 in the Tidal Basin and 12 in the Washington Channel on Mar. 11 (Bowen), and 14 on Broadford Lake on Apr. 14 (Pope). Late Red-breasteds were three at Poplar Island on May 29 (Reese), a female near Blockhouse Point, MO on May 30 (Bob Mumford), and six at Eagles Nest on May 30 (Hafner). Concentrations of **Ruddy Ducks** included 500 at Leonardtown on Mar. 16 (Ringler, Ellis), 400 on St. Jeromes Creek, SM on Mar. 17 (Stiles), and 900 on Fishing Bay on Mar. 22 (Ellison, Mann); late were one at Chesapeake Farms on May 17-18 (Ellison, N. Martin) and three on Fishing Bay on May 18 (H. Armistead).

*Diurnal Raptors.* **Ospreys** appeared early this year including single birds at Sharptown, WI on Mar. 1 (Brinker), Conowingo Dam on Mar. 11 (Bill Collins), Big Pool on Mar. 22 (Arnold), and Piney Run on Mar. 23 (Ringler); another lingered to May 31 at Lake Elkhorn (Wilkinson) and one was soaring over McHenry, GA on June 1 (Pope). Reports of **Swallow-tailed Kites** were one at Fort Smallwood on Mar. 24 (Ricciardi), another there on May 2 (Ralph Geuder), and one at Marydel, CN on May 14 (*vide* Roslund). Three **Mississippi**

**Kites** were seen at Fort Smallwood on May 12 (Ricciardi +). An adult Bald Eagle was at Broadford Lake on Apr. 28 (Pope) and a nest with two young was at Loch Raven on Apr. 29 (Gail Frantz). Two **Northern Harriers** at Hart-Miller on May 17 (Arnold) were late. The only report of **Northern Goshawk** was one at Cumberland on Mar. 22 (Holbrook, Brighton). A dark-morph **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen at Darnestown on Apr. 19 (Simonson); a late migrant Broad-wing was at Blackwater on June 2 (H. Armistead). On Mar. 23, 16 **Red-tailed Hawks** were seen migrating at UMCF (Ott +). **Rough-legged Hawks** were widely reported with one dark morph near PRNAS on Mar. 1 (Holbrook, Brighton), one light morph at Rising Sun, CE on Mar. 3 (Starling), one dark morph at Bestpitch, DO on Mar. 9 (H. Armistead), one dark morph at Oakland, GA on Mar. 14 (Pope), one at Irish Grove on Mar. 15 (D. Burggraf), and two light morphs at Elliott Island on Mar. 22 (Ellison, Mann) and one there on the 30th (Holbrook, Brighton). The only **Golden Eagles** noted were an immature at Blackwater on Mar. 9 (H. Armistead), one at Hughes Hollow on Mar. 9 (Woodward), and one at Drayden, SM on Mar. 13 (Rambo). On Apr. 24 Rambo counted 23 **American Kestrels** migrating at PRNAS. Among the numerous reports of migrant **Merlins** were one at Herrington Manor SP on Apr. 15 (Pope) and one at Rock Creek Park on May 8 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Notable sightings of **Peregrine Falcons** were one at Oak Grove on Apr. 13 (Lovelace), one at UMCF on Apr. 28 (Ott, Solem), one at Waldorf on May 4 (Jett), and one at Layhill on May 21 (Cooper, Ott +).

**TABLE 1:**  
**MIGRANT VULTURES & DIURNAL RAPTORS, SPRING 2003**  
**FORT SMALLWOOD PARK, ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**  
Compiled by Sue Ricciardi

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BIG DAYS
Black Vulture	2/13	5/17	183	28 on 4/23, 14 on 3/9 & 3/23
Turkey Vulture	2/13	6/4	4,164	1,457 on 3/23, 226 on 3/15
Osprey	3/7	5/30	521	57 on 4/24, 52 on 4/14
Swallow-tailed Kite	3/24	5/2	2	
Mississippi Kite	5/12		3	3 on 5/12
Bald Eagle	3/14	5/31	57	9 on 5/12
Northern Harrier	3/8	5/14	107	14 on 4/6, 13 on 4/15
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2/20	5/20	2,232	252 on 4/29, 228 on 4/23
Cooper's Hawk	3/5	5/30	503	43 on 5/1, 31 on 4/16
Northern Goshawk	3/14		1	
Red-shouldered Hawk	3/5	4/24	190	54 on 3/12, 37 on 3/9
Broad-winged Hawk	4/13	5/31	1,390	391 on 4/23, 253 on 4/24
Red-tailed Hawk	3/3	5/30	302	44 on 3/9, 24 on 3/23
American Kestrel	3/9	5/20	315	52 on 4/15, 36 on 4/6
Merlin	3/5	5/14	77	15 on 4/24, 11 on 4/27
Peregrine Falcon	4/3	5/1	4	also 1 on 4/6 & 4/25
Unidentified			44	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2/13</b>	<b>6/4</b>	<b>10,095</b>	<b>1,612 on 3/23, 855 on 4/23</b>

*Coverage: 329 hours of observation on 63 days*

*Pheasants, Turkeys, Rallids, Crane.* A male **Ring-necked Pheasant** at Sykesville on Mar. 15 (D. & M. Harvey) has become a rarity there; six were at Taylors Island on Mar. 16 (H. Armistead). On Mar. 11 Cribb saw seven **Wild Turkeys** at Scotland. Hoffman noted two **King Rails** at Truitts Landing on Apr. 26 and one was heard at Tanyard on May 17 (Holbrook, Brighton). Three **Virginia Rails** were noted at Irish Grove on Mar. 15 (D. Burggraf). Late migrating **Soras** were one at Eastern Neck on May 10 (Floyd Parks), one near Vienna, DO on May 10 (H. Armistead +), one at Lakeside on May 10 (Larkin), and one at Hart-Miller on May 24 (Hafner +). Unexpected single **Common Moorhens** were found at Hughes Hollow on Apr. 27 (Powell), Font Hill on May 10-14 (Karan & Bill Blum +), and Ocean City on May 18 (Holbrook, Brighton). On Mar. 12 Bill Pope saw a **Sandhill Crane** in flight near Oakland, GA.

*Plovers, Oystercatchers, Stilts, Avocets.* The 130 **Black-bellied Plovers** seen at Eagles Nest on Mar. 9 (Ellison, N. Martin) were wintering birds; early migrants were one at Poplar Island on Apr. 18 (Reese) and one at Oak Grove on Apr. 27 (Lovelace). Peak numbers of Black-bellieds were 196 in Kent Co. (mostly in fields near Fairlee and Massey) on May 18 (Ellison, N. Martin) and 139 near Powellville, WI on May 30 (Hafner); unusual were five at Scotland on May 20 (Stiles) with one remaining on May 22 (Rambo). The first **Semipalmated Plovers** of the season were three at Assateague on Apr. 26 (Hoffman); of local interest were 40 at Blackwater, 12 at Elliott Island, and 20 at Bestpitch, DO on May 18 (H. Armistead, Willey), six at Mountain Lake on May 19 (Pope), 12 at Scotland on May 22 (Rambo), four at Oak Grove on May 22 of which three remained on the 25th (Lovelace), and 13 at Swan Harbor Farm on May 23 (Hafner). Two **Piping Plovers** were seen on Assateague on Apr. 8 (C. & D. Broderick). The only flock of **Killdeer** remaining from winter to be reported was 50 at Scotland on Mar. 10 (Cribb). **American Oystercatchers** in Chesapeake Bay included two at Poplar Island from Apr. 18 into May and three there on June 4 (Reese) and one at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla +). Reports of **Black-necked Stilts** included one at Elliott Island on Mar. 23 (Hilton, Shannon), 17 there on Apr. 24 (Holmes), one at Truitts Landing on May 4 (Powell), and five near Blackwater on May 16 (Holbrook). Six **American Avocets** were seen at Eagles Nest on Mar. 22 (John +) and one at Salisbury on May 18 (Dyke).

*Sandpipers.* One **Greater Yellowlegs** was at Rumbly Point on Mar. 15 (D. Burggraf); highs were 60 near Blackwater on Mar. 22 (Ellison, Mann), 63 at Oak Grove on Apr. 14 (Lovelace), 25 at Pickering Creek on Apr. 16 (Nielsen), and 23 at Elliott Island on Apr. 24 (Holmes); late were one at UMCF on May 26 (Ott, Solem) and two at Swan Harbor Farm on May 26 (Hafner). Similar reports for **Lesser Yellowlegs** were one at Blackwater on Mar. 22 (John +), 57 at Elliott Island on Apr. 24 (Holmes), 40 at Pickering Creek on May 5 (Roslund), 94 at Poplar Island on May 13-14 (Reese), one at UMCF on May 26 (Ott, Solem), and two at Swan Harbor Farm on May 29 (Cupp). A **Solitary Sandpiper** at Scotland on Mar. 27 (Cribb) was early; late birds were one at Elkton on May 19 (Tuomo Niemenen, Starling), one at Scotland on May 20 (Cribb), one at Hart-Miller on May 24 (Hafner +), three at Fulton on May 26 (Ott, Holdridge), and one at Swan Harbor Farm on May 29 (Cupp). On the coast one displaying Eastern **Willet** was at Ocean City on Mar. 16 (Baer, Hafner) and one was at Eagles Nest on Mar. 22; the high was 300 at Assateague on May 18 (Holbrook, Brighton). Chesapeake Bay sightings of Willets included two at Poplar Island on Apr. 18 (Reese), one at Point Lookout on Apr. 19 (Cribb), and one at Rigby's Folly on May 17 (H. Armistead). The first **Spotted Sandpiper** of the season was at Lake Elkhorn on Apr. 14 (Ott +); other reports included 10 at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on May 17 (Bowen), three at Swan Harbor Farm on May 29 (Cupp), and 37 at Poplar Island on May 29 (Reese). The only reports of **Upland Sandpipers** were two at Trout Run on May 2 (Pope) and one heard at Mount Pleasant on May 4 (Ott, D.

Harvey). Flocks of **Whimbrels** were 110 at Assateague on May 18 (Holbrook, Brighton), 12 flying over Scotland on May 20 (Cribb), and 70 flying over UMCF on May 21 (Ott, Solem, Holdridge); one bird was at Hart-Miller on May 24 (Hafner +) and one at Holland Island on June 6 (H. Armistead +). A **Marbled Godwit** was seen at Eagles Nest on Mar. 22 (John +). **Ruddy Turnstones** numbered two at Elliott Island on May 18 (H. Armistead), 25 near Massey and Galena on May 18 (Ellison, N. Martin), one at Scotland on May 19-20 (Cribb +), 19 at Poplar Island on May 29 (Reese), and 88 near Wango on May 30 (Hafner), an impressive total for an inland location. The only reports of **Red Knot** were one at Assateague on May 18 (Holbrook, Brighton) and one at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla +). Flocks of **Sanderlings** on Chesapeake Bay were 13 at Flag Ponds on Apr. 8 (Ripley) and 58 at Poplar Island on Apr. 18 (Reese). Flocks of **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were very impressive with 950 at Blackwater and another 850 near there on May 18 (H. Armistead, Willey), 29 at Scotland on May 22 (Rambo), 2,984 at Hart-Miller on May 24 (Hafner +), 38 at Swan Harbor Farm on May 26 (Hafner), and 2,600 at Poplar Island on May 29 (Reese). Single **Western Sandpipers**, very rare in spring, were at Hart-Miller on May 7 (Scarpulla), Pickering Creek on May 17 (Holbrook, Brighton), and near Dameron on May 20 (Stiles). **Least Sandpipers** began with two near Blackwater on Mar. 16 (H. Armistead) and continued with 170 at Pickering Creek on May 10 (Roslund), 225 at Blackwater plus 100 near there and another 30 at Bestpitch, DO on May 18 (H. Armistead, Willey), 27 at Scotland on May 22 (Rambo), 17 at Oak Grove on May 22 (Lovelace), 35 at Swan Harbor Farm on May 29 (Cupp), eight at Poplar Island on May 29 (Reese), several at Wango on May 30 (Hafner), and one at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla +). All reports of **White-rumped Sandpipers** were from the Chesapeake Bay region with one near Blackwater on May 3 and five there on May 10 (H. Armistead +), three at Rumbly Point on May 12 (C. & D. Broderick), two at Pickering Creek on May 14 (Roslund), four there on May 16-17 (Holbrook), two near Eastern Neck on May 18 (Ellison, N. Martin), one at Scotland on May 22 (Rambo), one at Swan Harbor Farm on May 23-29 (Hafner +), nine at Hart-Miller on May 24 (Hafner +), 10 at Poplar Island on May 29, and one there on June 4 (Reese), and three at Blackwater on June 2 (H. Armistead). **Pectoral Sandpipers** began very early with three at PRNAS on Mar. 2 (Rambo +), one in Howard Co. near Sykesville on Mar. 9 (Ott), 15 at Scotland on Mar. 10 (Cribb), seven at Queenstown on Mar. 10 (Poet), three at Pickering Creek on Mar. 15 (Ringler), and 13 near Blackwater on Mar. 16 (H. Armistead); highs were 97 at Hope, QA on Apr. 12 (Ellison, N. Martin) and 170 at Pickering Creek on Apr. 28 (Roslund); very late were two at North Branch, AL on May 17 (Churchill). Reese found four **Purple Sandpipers** at Poplar Island on Apr. 18 and eight there on May 13-14; also late were 15 at Ocean City on May 23 (Powell, Sollers). The 2,000 **Dunlins** at Eagles Nest on Mar. 9 (Ellison, N. Martin) were wintering birds. All other Dunlin reports came from the Chesapeake Bay region including one at Rigby's Folly on Mar. 29 (H. Armistead), two at Flag Ponds on Apr. 8 (Ripley), two at Hope, QA on Apr. 12 (Ellison, N. Martin), two at Oak Grove on Apr. 13 (Lovelace), one at Chesapeake Farms on May 17 (Ellison), 625 at Blackwater and another 1,000 near there on May 18 (H. Armistead, Willey), one at Scotland on May 20-22 (Stiles +), 286 at Hart-Miller on May 24 (Hafner +), 165 at Swan Harbor Farm on May 26 (Hafner) of which eight remained there on the 29th (Cupp), 695 at Poplar Island on May 29 and six there on June 10 (Reese), and two at Wango on May 30 (Hafner). The only reports of **Stilt Sandpipers** were two at Blackwater on May 10 (Allen, Willey +) and one near there on May 16 (Holbrook). Notable **Short-billed Dowitchers** were one at North Beach on May 1 (Powell), one at Pickering Creek on May 5 and two there on May 10 (Roslund), eight at Allens Fresh on May 17 (Jett, Brewer), nine near Massey on May 18 (Ellison, N. Martin), 19 at Swan Harbor Farm on May 26 (Hafner), two at Wango on May 30 (Hafner), and 15 at Poplar Island on June 10 (Reese). High counts of **Wilson's Snipe** were 20 at Kingman Lake on Mar. 14 (Bowen), 72 at UMCF on Apr. 5 (Ott +), and 22 at Swan Harbor Farm on Apr. 26



(Larkin). Craig Tumer found a nest containing one egg of the **American Woodcock** at Fort Lincoln, DC on Mar. 7 and an adult with three downy young was seen at Shorters Wharf, DO on May 3 (H. Armistead, Sparks); 12 birds were at Aberdeen Proving Ground on Mar. 16 (D. & M. Webb). The only **Wilson's Phalaropes** were two at Rumbly Point on May 12-14 (C. & D. Broderick +), one at Poplar Island on May 29 (Reese), and four at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla +). A male **Red-necked Phalarope** was near Blackwater on May 10 (H. Armistead +), a female was at Frederick on May 22 (*fide* Mike Welch), a female was at Assateague on May 22 (Sollers, Powell), a male was at Hart-Miller on May 24-31 (Hafner +), and two individuals were at Poplar Island on June 4 (Reese). On a Mar. 15 pelagic trip most of the 15 **Red Phalaropes** seen were in Maryland waters (Guris +).

*Jaegers, Skua, Gulls.* On May 31 an adult **Pomarine Jaeger** was seen 45 miles east of Ocean City (Ednie +) and on May 18 a **Parasitic Jaeger** was seen off Assateague (Holbrook, Brighton). A dark **South Polar Skua** was also seen in Maryland waters on the May 31 pelagic trip (Ednie +). Early **Laughing Gulls** were one on the Miles River, TA on Mar. 2 (Roslund +), one at Ocean City on Mar. 8 (Jett, Brewer), and two at Point Lookout on Mar. 16 (Ringler, Ellis); higher numbers were 115 near Trappe, TA on Mar. 30 (H. Armistead) and 1,000 flying northwest past Point Lookout on Apr. 16 (Cribb). **Little Gulls** appeared in new as well as traditional locations this spring beginning with an adult at Edesville, KE on Mar. 29 (Ellison, N. Martin) followed by an adult in Cecil Co. opposite Lapidum on Mar. 30 (Churchill), one in breeding plumage off Rocky Point Park, BA on Apr. 5 (D. Burggraf), one in non-breeding plumage at Back River on Apr. 6-12 (Cooper +), one at Chesapeake Farms on Apr. 6 (Brighton), an adult near Handys Point, KE on Apr. 10 (Ellison), and an adult on Prospect Bay, QA on Apr. 12 (Hafner, Baer). The only **Black-headed Gull** of the season was at Fishing Point, PRNAS on Apr. 10 (Rambo). The four **Bonaparte's Gulls** at Eastern Neck on Mar. 2 (Ellison, N. Martin) may have been early migrants there. Across the bay on Back River numbers peaked at an unusually low 700 on Mar. 15 and Apr. 12 (Cooper). Smaller flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls included 65 at Piney Run on Mar. 23 (Ringler), 184 at Wilde Lake on Mar. 24 (Zeichner, Martha Chestem +), 55 at North Beach on Apr. 8 (Ripley), 110 at PRNAS on Apr. 10 (Rambo), and the following sightings by Ellison and Nancy Martin: 70 near Handys Point, KE on Apr. 10, 40 at Hope, QA on Apr. 12, 60 immatures near Fairlee on May 13, and 60 at Chesapeake Landing, KE on May 18. Churchill found 110 migrant **Ring-billed Gulls** at Cumberland on Mar. 9 and late migrants were one at Oak Grove on May 21 (Lovelace), 130 near Cambridge on June 2 (H. Armistead), and one at Wilde Lake on June 2 (Zeichner). Sightings of **Iceland Gulls** were all in March with an adult flying by Hooper Island on Mar. 9 (H. Armistead), an immature at the Tidal Basin on Mar. 9 (C. Harris), a first-winter bird at Roaring Point on Mar. 11 (Dyke), and one at Salisbury on Mar. 13 (Dyke). A first-winter **Thayer's Gull** was at Salisbury on Mar. 11 (Dyke). Sightings of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** included an adult plus a third-winter bird at North East on Mar. 11 (Starling), one at Conowingo Dam on Mar. 15 (Weesner), four in Maryland waters on the Mar. 15 pelagic trip (Guris +), a breeding plumage bird at Anacostia Park on Mar. 21 (Bowen), one at Randallstown on Apr. 6 (Costley), a second-summer bird at Hart-Miller on May 24 (Hafner +), and single first-summer and fourth-summer birds at Ocean City on May 29 (Hafner). A **Great Black-backed Gull** at Wilde Lake on Apr. 17 (Coskren) was late to be so far inland. The **Kelp Gull** at Sandgates, SM was last seen on Mar. 10 (Craig).

*Terns, Skimmers, Alcids.* The first **Gull-billed Tern** of the year was seen at North Assateague on Apr. 26 (Hoffman) and one was far up the bay at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla +). Early **Caspian Terns** were one in the Washington Channel on Mar. 26 (Pisano), one at Centennial on Mar. 30 (Jenkins), one at Swards, DO on Mar. 30 (H. Armistead), and two at



Piney Run on Apr. 4 (Hubbell); others of note were one at Lilypons on Apr. 12–17 (Churchill, Kiddy +), one at Piney Reservoir on Apr. 13 (Churchill), 12 at Bladensburg on Apr. 14 (Mozurkewich), 29 at Crystal Beach, CE on Apr. 25 (Ellison), 20 at Fulton (Wilkinson) and six at Lake Elkhorn (Ott) on Apr. 27, and 107 at Hart-Miller on May 24 (Hafner +). Holbrook and Brighton reported the first **Royal Terns** of the season at Ocean City on Mar. 29 and Whitehaven, WI the next day; in upper Chesapeake Bay one was at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 19 (Wierenga, Davidson), two at Hart-Miller on May 17 (Arnold) and one there on the 24th (Hafner +). A **Sandwich Tern** was unexpected at Poplar Island on May 13–14 (Reese) and three at Ocean City on May 29 (Hafner) were also surprising in spring. One adult **Roseate Tern** was at Ocean City from May 18 through June 7 (Holbrook, Brighton +). Unusual sightings of **Common Terns** were one at Patuxent River Park on Apr. 18 (Holbrook), 17 at Hains Point on May 10 (Pisano), three at Little Meadows Lake and one at Rocky Gap on May 17 (Churchill), two at Seneca on May 18 (Czaplak), and one near Fairlee on May 18 (Ellison, N. Martin); the breeding colony at Poplar Island numbered 555 on May 29 (Reese). An **Arctic Tern** was reported at Assateague on May 18 (Holbrook, Brighton). Early **Forster's Terns** were four at Ocean City on Mar. 5 (Vaughn, Jenion), five at Taylors Island on Mar. 16 (H. Armistead), in St. Mary's Co. one at Rodo Beach, one at St. Mary's City, and three at Leonardtown on Mar. 16 (Ringler, Ellis), and one at Perry Point on Apr. 5 (Starling); inland birds included one at Centennial on Apr. 8 (Ott, Holdridge), several at Seneca on Apr. 26 (Eberly) and one there on May 19 (Powell), several at Broadford Lake on May 18 (Pope), and two flying over Oak Grove on May 25 (Lovelace). Two **Least Terns** were early at Deal Island WMA on Apr. 12 (N. & F. Saunders); other interesting reports were two at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on May 3 (Hubbell), two at North Point, BA on May 11 (Jenkins), and four at Bladensburg on May 17 (Mozurkewich +). Small numbers of **Black Terns** were widely scattered with two on the Susquehanna Flats west of Turkey Point on Apr. 25 (Starling), one at Great Oak Pond on Apr. 26 (Ellison), one at Broadford Lake on May 10 (Pope), one at Lake Artemesia on May 10 (Jack Saba), two at Rocky Gap on May 17 (Churchill), one at Hart-Miller on May 17 (Arnold), two at Fort McHenry on May 17 (Peters), two at Chesapeake Farms on May 17–18 (Ellison, N. Martin), and five at Seneca on May 18 (Czaplak). Five **Black Skimmers** flying up Sinepuxent Bay, WO on Mar. 23 (N. & F. Saunders) were record early. The pelagic trip on Mar. 15 tallied two **Dovekies**, one non-breeding plumage **Common Murre** (seen by Iliff only), seven **Razorbills**, and one adult **Atlantic Puffin** (Guris +). Another Razorbill was extraordinary off Assateague on May 18 (Holbrook, Brighton).

*Dove, Cuckoos, Owl.* A **Ringed Turtle-Dove** was seen at Tidewater Marina, Havre de Grace on Apr. 25 (Bill & Bonnie Hallock). Early **Black-billed Cuckoos** were one heard at Chesapeake Landing, KE on Apr. 29 (Ellison, N. Martin) and one at Rock Creek Park on May 3 (Wechsler); others of note were four at Mount Aetna, WA on May 10 (Holbrook), one at North Tract PRR on May 17 (Sanford +), one heard near Blackwater on May 17 (Holbrook, Brighton), and three at Rock Creek Park on May 20 (Mackiernan, Cooper). An early **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was heard at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 27 (Wilkerson) and a peak of 12 was found there on May 7–8 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Mark England kept tabs on a **Long-eared Owl** roosting near Laytonsville through Mar. 22. The latest reports of **Short-eared Owls** were one at PRNAS on Mar. 2 (Rambo +), four at Elliott Island on Mar. 9 (H. Armistead), and one at Deal Island WMA on Mar. 15 (D. Burggraf).

*Caprimulgids, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers.* Two early **Common Nighthawks** were at Wilde Lake on Apr. 27 (Zeichner) followed by a high of at least 25 at Rileys Lock on May 24 (Marko +); late migrants were eight at Lake Needwood, MO on May 27 (Marko), one at Lake Elkhorn on May 28 (Wilkinson), one near North East on May 29 (Hafner), one at Rigby's

Folly on June 1 (H. Armistead), and probably the one at Mears Farm on June 4 (Arnold, Kucera). The first **Chuck-will's-widow** of the year was noted at Ridge on Apr. 12 (Cribb). Early **Whip-poor-wills** were one heard at Dameron on Mar. 9 (*vide* Craig) and one at Ocean City on Mar. 22 (Allen Deward). Single early **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were at Ocean Pines on Apr. 4 (*vide* Callahan), at Parsonsburg on Apr. 14 (Pitney), and in Garrett Co. on Apr. 14 (Pope). Migrant **Red-headed Woodpeckers** included one at Washington Monument SP on Apr. 25 (Weesner) and one near Patapsco Valley SP, HO on Apr. 26 (*vide* Ott). Pisano estimated 25 **Northern Flickers** flying north over East Potomac Park on Mar. 26.

*Flycatchers, Shrike, Vireos.* Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were seen at Potomac, MO on May 10 (Janet Millenson), Patapsco Valley SP, HO on May 10 (Darcy, Heffernan), Mount Aetna, WA on May 10 (Holbrook), Eastern Neck on May 10 (*vide* Ellison), MPEA on May 11 (Ott, Holdridge), Upper Watts Branch Park on May 11 (P. O'Brien), Layhill on May 21 (Cooper, Ott +), Seneca Creek SP, MO on May 25 (Powell +), near Upper Marlboro on June 2 (Shaffer), and Mt. Nebo on June 5 (Powell). An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** heard at Piscataway on Apr. 19 (P. Webb) was exceptionally early with the next reports of one at Cedar Villa Park, HO on Apr. 27 (Sunell) and one heard at Shad Landing, WO on Apr. 28 (K. & B. Harris). The only reports of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** were one at North Tract PRR on May 17 (Sanford +) and one at Kingman Lake on May 20 (Paul). The first **Acadian Flycatcher** of the season was at Herring Run Park, BC on Apr. 27 (Carroll). Though one **Alder Flycatcher** was reported in Garrett Co. on May 10 (*vide* Pope) the following migrants were found: one at Ellicott City on May 11 (Ott), two heard at Wootons Landing on May 14 (Bystrak), one at Bristol, AA on May 14-15 (Bystrak), one heard at North Tract PRR on May 17 (Sanford +), one heard near Rocks SP on May 19 (Hafner), one heard at Layhill on May 24 (Ott +), and one near Rocks, HA on May 25 (Hafner). Unusually early was a **Willow Flycatcher** at White Hall, HA on May 7 (Cupp). The first **Least Flycatcher** of the season was heard at Wallman, GA on Apr. 30 (Pope) and the latest migrant was one at Rock Creek Park on May 17 (Cooper). An early **Eastern Phoebe** was at Roosevelt Island on Mar. 4 (Marko) and one was at Hughes Hollow the same day (Mackiernan, Cooper); on Mar. 22 Costley tallied 11 at Soldiers Delight. The first **Great Crested Flycatchers** of the season were one at Elk Neck SP on Apr. 25 (Starling) and one at Cylburn on Apr. 26 (Carroll). Early **Eastern Kingbirds** were one at Schooley Mill Park on Apr. 16 (Solem) and one at Upper Marlboro on Apr. 18 (Holbrook). The only migrant **Loggerhead Shrike** seen this spring was at Scotland on Mar. 23-27 (Rambo +). April 15 was the early date for **White-eyed Vireos** this year with single birds at UMCF (Ott, Holdridge, Solem), Flag Ponds (Ripley), and Upper Marlboro (Shaffer). Likewise April 22 was the day for the first **Yellow-throated Vireos** with one at Rock Creek Park (Mackiernan, Cooper) and one at Ashton (Sussman). For **Blue-headed Vireos** it was April 16 with single birds at American Chestnut Land Trust (Hamilton), Rock Creek Park (Mackiernan, Cooper), and Halethorpe Ponds, AA (J. Martin). Highs for Blue-headed Vireos were six at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 22 and 29 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and eight at North Tract PRR on Apr. 26 (Holbrook); late was one at Rock Creek Park on May 8 (Sussman) and extraordinary was one at Perry Point on May 25 (Starling). The first **Warbling Vireo** was at Crystal Beach, CE on Apr. 25 (Ellison) and one at Youghiogheny River Reservoir, GA on May 2 (Churchill) was rare there. The first **Red-eyed Vireo** was at Brush Run, East Columbia on Apr. 25 (Wilkinson) and a high of 35 was found at Rock Creek Park on May 5-19 (Mackiernan, Cooper).

*Raven, Larks, Swallows.* A **Common Raven** at Black Hill RP on Mar. 4 (Mackiernan, Cooper) had probably drifted over from nearby Sugarloaf Mountain. The last flock of wintering **Horned Larks** was in Howard Co. near Sykesville on Mar. 9 (Ott +). Early **Purple**

**Martins** were one at Lake Elkhorn on Mar. 22 (Arnold, Ott +) and one at East Potomac Park on Mar. 26 (Pisano); three at Rocky Gap on May 15 (Holbrook) were rare there. Early **Tree Swallows** were five at Rileys Lock and two at Violettes Lock on Mar. 2 (Schindler +), six at Charlestown and one at Perryville on Mar. 9 (Starling +), five at Fort McHenry on Mar. 13 (Peters), and one at Nanticoke on Mar. 15 (Ringler); best numbers were 50 at Bethel WMA on Mar. 16 (Watson-Whitmyre), a few hundred at Fort Smallwood on Mar. 22 (Ricciardi +), and 140 at Scotland on May 22 (Rambo). Early **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were numerous with one at Hughes Hollow on Mar. 13 (Hubbell), one at Fletchers Boathouse on Mar. 15 (Hubbell), one at Gateway, HO on Mar. 22 (Sunell), one at Mouth of Monocacy, FR on Mar. 22 (Arnold), 10 at Fort Smallwood on Mar. 22 (Ricciardi +), three at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Mar. 23 (Pisano), and two at Piney Run on Mar. 23 (Ringler); a high of 25 was at Scotland on May 22 (Rambo). Three **Bank Swallows** at Scotland on May 22 (*vide* Ringler), two at Rigby's Folly on May 26 (H. Armistead), and one at Swan Harbor Farm on May 29 (Cupp) may all have been late migrants. A **Cliff Swallow** at Piney Run on Apr. 4 (Hubbell) was exceptionally early, 70 at Brighton Dam on May 3 (Ott, Magnusson, Solem +) were the most reported, and two were at Chain Bridge, DC on May 10 (Pisano) with one remaining through the 13th (Hubbell). Coastal Plain reports of Cliff Swallows were numerous this spring with two at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 28 (Ricciardi +), one near Brookview on May 16 (Holbrook), two at Allens Fresh on May 17 (Jett, Brewer), one at Chesapeake Farms on May 17 (Ellison), two at Blackwater on May 18 (H. Armistead, Willey), three at Scotland on May 22 (Rambo), and one at Pickering Creek on May 23 (Powell, Sollers). Early **Barn Swallows** on Mar. 22 were one at Soldiers Delight (Costley), one at Scotland (Cribb), and one at Fort Smallwood (Ricciardi +) and on Mar. 23 one at UMCF (Ott +), one at Centennial (Heffernan, Darcy), and two at Chesapeake Farms (Ellison, N. Martin); about 100 were at Scotland on May 22 (Rambo).

*Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers.* **Carolina Wrens** began nest-building at Pylesville about Mar. 12 (J. & L. Fry). The first **House Wrens** of the season were one at Kingman Lake on Apr. 15 (Paul) and one at Parsonsburg on Apr. 16 (Pitney). Two **Sedge Wrens** were at Irish Grove on Apr. 12 (D. Burggraf). Reports of **Marsh Wrens** included one heard on Kent Island on Mar. 13 (Crabtree), one at Patuxent River Park on Apr. 18 (Holbrook), one at Elk Neck SP on May 1 (Starling), and 29 in the Gunpowder River marshes, HA on May 4 (Ziolkowski). A late **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was at Henryton, HO on Apr. 27 (Schwarz) and two late **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were at Greenbrier SP on May 18 (Weesner). Early **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were one at Laurel, PG on Mar. 24 (Rod Burley) and one at Vantage Point, Columbia on Mar. 28 (Zeichner); 30 were at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 22 (Mackiernan, Cooper).

*Thrushes.* A **Veery** singing at Town Point, DO on Apr. 13 (Carroll) was very early as the next was at Centennial on Apr. 22 (Ott). One **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at Upper Watts Branch Park on May 5 (P. O'Brien), followed by high counts of four at Rock Creek Park on May 15 (C. Harris) and several heard flying over Bel Air on May 24 and 26 (Hafner). The only reports of **Bicknell's Thrush** were one at MPEA on May 9 (Holbrook), one heard flying over Rockville on May 10 (P. O'Brien), and two heard flying over Bel Air on May 24 (Hafner). A late **Swainson's Thrush** was at Rigby's Folly on May 27 (H. Armistead). The first **Hermit Thrush** seen in Garrett Co. this spring was at Mt. Nebo on Apr. 13 (Pope); a high of 13 was at Upper Watts Branch Park on Apr. 22 (P. & M. O'Brien). Harry Armistead and party listened for migrants flying over southern Dorchester Co. before dawn on May 10 and heard 200 Veeries, three Gray-cheeks, 65 Swainson's Thrushes, and 35 **Wood Thrushes**.

*Mimids, Starlings, Pipits, Waxwings.* Wintering **Gray Catbirds** lingered at Rockburn on Mar. 3 (Farner) and Point Lookout on Mar. 16 (Ringler, Ellis). Late wintering **Brown Thrashers** were one at Cloverly, MO on Mar. 2 (Wilkerson) and one at Fair Hill, CE on Mar. 4 (Starling); one at Point Lookout on Mar. 16 (Ringler, Ellis) may have been an early spring migrant, which was more likely the case for single birds at Swansfield, Columbia on Mar. 19 (Tveekrem), on the Mall, DC on Mar. 24 (Felley), and at Darnestown on Mar. 26 (Simonson). Pope estimated 1,000 **European Starlings** on Mar. 23 near Trout Run, a large flock for Garrett Co. A very late flock of 70 **American Pipits** was at UMCF on May 21 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem). The largest number of **Cedar Waxwings** reported was 250 at Rock Creek Park on May 14 (Mackiernan, Cooper).

*Vermivora and Parula Warblers.* The first **Blue-winged Warblers** of the year were found on Apr. 25, one at Lake Roland (D. Burggraf) and two at Rock Creek Park (Mackiernan, Cooper). The only migrant **Golden-winged Warblers** found this spring were one at Rockburn on May 4 (Maloney), a female at Rock Creek Park on May 8 (Mackiernan, Cooper), one at East Potomac Park on May 8 (Pisano), and one in Queen Anne's Co. on May 10 (Rob Etgen). The only hybrid **Brewster's Warbler** was a male at Rock Creek Park on May 9-10 (Mackiernan, Cooper). The first **Tennessee Warbler** of the season was at Upper Watts Branch Park on May 3 (P. O'Brien +) and the last was at Rock Creek Park on May 25 (Mackiernan, Cooper), but there were very few in between. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** that may have wintered at the National Arboretum was last seen on Mar. 15 (Hilton +) and a migrant was at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 20 (Mackiernan, Cooper). The high for **Nashville Warblers** was four at Rock Creek Park on May 2 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Early **Northern Parulas** on Apr. 13 were one at Meadowside, MO (Sussman) and one on the C&O Canal, WA (Holbrook); a late migrant was at Terrapin on May 26 (K. Harris).

*Dendroica Warblers.* The first **Yellow Warbler** of the year was at Upper Marlboro on Apr. 18 (Holbrook). The first **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were one heard at Lochearn, BA on Apr. 30 (P. Webb) and one at Hallmark the same day (Ebert), followed by a peak of 15 at Rock Creek Park on May 8 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and these late birds: two at Terrapin on May 26 (K. Harris), one near Scaggsville, HO on May 27 (Solem), a female at Towson, BA on May 27 (Lev), and one at Halethorpe Ponds, AA on June 2 (Arnold, Kucera). The first **Magnolia Warbler** was at Orange Grove on Apr. 27 (Ott +) followed by a peak of 15 at Rock Creek Park on May 12-14 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and two late birds at Rigby's Folly on May 27 (H. Armistead). Very few **Cape May Warblers** were found this spring beginning with one at Rock Creek Park on May 5 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and ending with one heard at Little Bennett on May 25 (Bob Hartman). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** began with two at Herring Run Park, BC on Apr. 27 (Carroll), peaked with 25 at Rock Creek Park on May 9-14 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and ended with one female in the Towson area, BA on May 25 (Georgia McDonald). The peak for **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was 300 at Rock Creek Park on May 5 down to 10 there on May 22 (Mackiernan, Cooper); one at Greenbrier SP on May 24 (Weesner) was the latest. An **Audubon's Warbler**, the western subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler, was reported at Trappe, TA on Apr. 29 (Brighton). Ten **Black-throated Green Warblers** near Kempton, GA on Apr. 16 (Pope) were the first of the season with the peak of 15 at Rock Creek Park on May 2 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and a late one at Susquehanna SP on May 25 (Hafner). An early **Blackburnian Warbler** was at Milford Mill on May 1 (Sanford +), four were at Rock Creek Park on May 14 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and a late one was at Kindler, HO on May 26 (Solem). On Mar. 25 the first **Yellow-throated Warblers** were seen with three at American Chestnut Land Trust (Hamilton) and one near Fletchers Boathouse (Bowen). A **Pine Warbler** was locally early at Middle River, BA on Mar. 9 (Susan Shock) and two at Her-

rington Manor SP on Apr. 15 (Pope) were rare in Garrett Co. An exceptionally early **Prairie Warbler** was at Elliott Island on Apr. 4 (C. & D. Broderick). The first **Palm Warblers** were one at Bel Air on Mar. 22 (Cheicante) and one at Lake Elkhorn on Mar. 26 (Holdridge); highs were nine at Turf Valley, HO on Apr. 4 (Cullison), 40 at Jug Bay on Apr. 4 (Ripley), nine at Grove Neck and one at Mt. Harmon Plantation, CE on Apr. 6 (John +), and eight near Dividing Creek, SO on Apr. 12 (N. & F. Saunders), and a late one was at Greenbrier SP on May 9 (Weesner). Of the Palm Warblers identified to the yellow subspecies 11 were near Lilypons on Apr. 17 (Ralph Wall), 20 at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Apr. 21 (Mackiernan, Cooper), two at Wye Island on Apr. 24 (Poet), two at Newark, WO on Apr. 25 (Hoffman), and one late bird at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 29 (C. Harris). Of the Palm Warblers identified to the western subspecies there were three at Rock Creek Park on May 8 of which one remained through the 11th (Mackiernan, Cooper). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** at Wyman Park, BC on Apr. 22 (Carroll) was record early; others of note were one at Calvert Cliffs on May 7 (Bell), two at Millington WMA on May 18 (Ellison, N. Martin), a female at Lake Roland on May 28 (Lev), and one singing at North Tract PRR on May 28 (Schwarz). **Blackpoll Warblers** were remarkably early this spring with one on the Mall, DC on Apr. 30 (Scott Michaud), one at Ellicott City on May 1 (Ott), one at Glenn Dale, PG on May 1 (Meghan Tice), one near Hellen Creek, CT and one at Jefferson Patterson Park on May 2 (Bell), and one at Dunkirk on May 2 (Ripley); high counts were 50 at Halethorpe Ponds, BA on May 18 (J. Martin), 35 at Rock Creek Park on May 19 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and 25 at Lake Roland on May 28 (Lev) and the latest was one near Rockburn on June 6 (Coskren, Solem). The only Coastal Plain report of **Cerulean Warbler** was one at North Tract PRR on May 17 (Sanford +).

*Other Warblers, Tanagers.* Early **Black-and-white Warblers** were one at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Mar. 29 (Hubbell) and a male at Font Hill on Apr. 3 (Schwarz) followed by a peak of 21 at MPEA on May 9 (Holbrook); late migrants were one on the Mall, DC on May 22 (Felley) and one at Terrapin on May 26 (K. Harris). The first **American Redstarts** of the season were three at Henryton, HO on Apr. 16 (Ott) with a peak of 24 at MPEA on May 9 (Holbrook); one at Centennial on June 9 (Neri) may have been a late migrant. Locally early or rare **Prothonotary Warblers** were single birds at Pennyfield on Apr. 14 (Wechsler), Harford Glen on Apr. 20 (Nielsen), McKeldin on Apr. 20 (D. & M. Harvey), Cylburn on May 11 (Sanford +), and Henryton, HO on May 12–19 (Sanford). Early **Worm-eating Warblers** were one at Elk Neck SP on Apr. 19 (John) and one at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 20 (Mackiernan, Cooper). A **Swainson's Warbler** was heard along Nassawango Creek, WI on Apr. 19 (Dyke). The first **Ovenbird** of the season was heard at Irish Grove on Apr. 12 (D. Burggraf). An early **Northern Waterthrush** was singing at Milford Mill on Apr. 22 (Sanford), a high of six was at Hughes Hollow on May 19 (Woodward), and late migrants were one at Rigby's Folly on May 27 (H. Armistead) and one at Brush Run, East Columbia on May 30 (Wilkinson). Early **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were two at Colbourne, WO on Mar. 22 (Dyke, Hoffman), one near Lilypons on Mar. 23 (Franz Hespeneheide), one at MPEA on Mar. 25 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem), one at Rock Creek Park on Mar. 25 (Eric Raun), one heard near Havre de Grace on Mar. 26 (Eastman), one heard at Upper Watts Branch Park on Mar. 26 (P. O'Brien), and one at Mill Creek Sanctuary, TA on Mar. 29 (Ricciardi +). Hoffman found the first **Kentucky Warblers** of the season on Apr. 27 at Colbourne, WO, three birds. Early **Mourning Warblers** were one in Garrett Co. on May 10 (*vide* Pope), a male at Mount Aetna, WA on May 10 (Holbrook), and a male at Rock Creek Park on May 11 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and late birds were one near Bishopville, WO on May 30 (Hafner), two at Rockburn on May 31 (Ott, Solem +), and one heard at Edwards Ferry, MO on June 1 (Hilton). The first **Common Yellowthroat** of the season was singing at Irish Grove on Apr. 12 (D. Burggraf). An early **Hooded Warbler** was at Rock Creek Park on Apr. 20 (Dobbins) and a late migrant was at Pickering Creek on May

17 (Holbrook, Brighton). **Wilson's Warblers** peaked at four at Rock Creek Park on May 12 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and a late bird was at Essex Farm Park, BA on May 26 (Lev). **Canada Warblers** peaked at eight at Rock Creek Park on May 18-19 (Mackiernan, Cooper) with the latest migrant one at MPEA on May 29 (Solem, Coskren). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** at Huntingtown NRMA, CT on Apr. 16 (Ripley) was exceptionally early, or may have wintered there. Interesting **Summer Tanagers** were a male at Colesville, MO on May 11 (N. Saunders) and one singing at Millington WMA on May 18 (Ellison, N. Martin).

*Sparrows, Juncos.* Late **American Tree Sparrows** were 12 at Myrtle Grove WMA, CH on Mar. 8 (Jett), one at Hancock, WA on Mar. 10 (Smith), one at Fort McHenry on Mar. 10-13 (Peters), four at Broadford Lake on Mar. 13 (Pope), and one at Belmont, HO on Mar. 13 (Arnold, Sue Probst). An early **Chipping Sparrow** was at Wynfield, HO on Mar. 9 and 34 were there on the 30th (Cullison); other high numbers were 40 at Mount Pleasant on Apr. 16 (Ott) and 50 at Waldorf on Apr. 19 (Jett, Brewer). Interesting reports of **Vesper Sparrows** were two at Kenilworth Park on Mar. 29 (Hubbell), one at Jefferson Patterson Park on Apr. 12 (Ripley +), and one at Wye Island NRMA on Apr. 13 (Brighton). A **Savannah Sparrow** at Turkey Point on Mar. 7 (Starling) was probably an early migrant and the high count for the season was 40 at UMCF on Mar. 23 (Ott +); late were one at UMCF on May 21 (Ott), two at Hart-Miller on May 24 (Hafner +), and two at Alpha Ridge Landfill on May 30 (Cullison). An "Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow was reported at Point Lookout on May 1 (Ann & Tony Ziccardi). On May 30 Cullison also tallied 30 **Grasshopper Sparrows** at Alpha Ridge Landfill. Kiddy found two **Henslow's Sparrows** near Frostburg, AL on May 25. A **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was seen at UMCF on the remarkably late date of June 2 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem). A **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was singing at Flag Ponds on May 2 (Bell, Hamilton, Ripley). Three **Seaside Sparrows** were on territory at Deal Island WMA on Apr. 12 (N. & F. Saunders); others of note were one at North Beach plus some at Flag Ponds on May 2 (Bell, Hamilton, Ripley) and two or three in the Gunpowder River marshes, HA on May 4 (Ziolkowski). Highs for migrant **Fox Sparrows** were 18 at MPEA on Mar. 12 (Ott +), 20 at the National Arboretum on Mar. 14 (Pisano), and 20 at Layhill on Mar. 23 (Mackiernan, Cooper); a late bird was at Mt. Nebo on Apr. 13 (Pope). Early **Lincoln's Sparrows** were singles at Waldorf on Apr. 27 (Jett), East Columbia on May 1 (Holbrook), PRNAS on May 1 (Rambo), Rileys Lock on May 2 (C. Harris), and Harford Glen on May 7 (Powers); the only report of two was at Rock Creek Park on May 11 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Three late **Swamp Sparrows** were at Rock Creek Park on May 18 (Cooper) and one at UMCF on June 2 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem) was exceptional. Late **White-throated Sparrows** were singles at Eden Mill on May 24 (Hafner), singing at Meadowside, MO on May 24 (Sussman), and singing near Bishopville, WO on May 31 (Hafner). A late **White-crowned Sparrow** was at Scotland on May 22 (Rambo). Late **Dark-eyed Juncos** were one at Swansfield, Columbia on May 9-10 (Tveekrem) and one at Nanjemoy on May 16 (Callahan).

*Cardinaline Finches, Icterids.* There were secondhand reports of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** that may have wintered in the area: two in Cecil Co. on Mar. 1 (*vide* Gary Griffith) and an immature male in Columbia on Mar. 30 (*vide* P. Webb). Early migrant Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were widespread with one at Font Hill on Apr. 19 (Wilkinson), a male at Tunis Mills on Apr. 24 (Roslund), two at Damascus, MO on Apr. 27 (Tony Heatwole), five at Washington Monument SP on Apr. 28 (Weesner), one at Snydersburg, CL on Apr. 30 (Schwemmer), and one at Hance Point on Apr. 30 (Starling); the last was a male at Allview, HO on May 26 (Ralph Stokes +). Early **Blue Grosbeaks** were singles at North Tract PRR on Apr. 26 (Holbrook), Blackwater on Apr. 27 (H. Armistead), Damascus, MO on Apr. 27 (Tony Heatwole), Rock Creek Park on Apr. 28 (Wechsler), and Perry Point on Apr. 29 (Starling). An early

**Indigo Bunting** was singing at Fletchers Boathouse on Apr. 20 (Mike Milton). A **Dickcissel** was seen at a Harford Co. feeder for several weeks in March/April (*fide* Spike Updegrove); a male at Berwyn Heights, PG on May 17 (Mozurkewich +) was notable there. The first two **Bobolinks** of the year were at UMCF on Apr. 28 (Ott, Solem) with a high for the season there of 140 on May 7 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem); late were 60 at Dameron on May 26 (Stiles), three at Alpha Ridge Landfill on May 30 (Cullison), and two at Mears Farm on June 4 (Arnold, Kucera). Flocks of **Rusty Blackbirds** included 80 at Hughes Hollow on Mar. 22 (Simonson), 12 remaining there on May 10 (Woodward) and 26 at Vantage Point, HO on Apr. 15 (Zeichner). On Apr. 25 Rambo found four **Boat-tailed Grackles** at PRNAS and on May 22 he found five at Ridge. An early **Orchard Oriole** was at Pickering Creek on Apr. 16 (Nielsen). The first two **Baltimore Orioles** of the season were at David Force WMA, HO on Apr. 20 (Sunell, Wright).

*Exotics.* A **Black Swan** was at Thanksgiving Nursery, FR on Mar. 17 (Powell). A **Monk Parakeet** was seen flying over the National Arboretum on Mar. 23 (Craig Turner).



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*Cover: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Chincoteague, VA, October 1994. Photo by Luther Goldman.*



## **GULL OBSERVATIONS AT SCHOOLHOUSE POND DURING DECEMBER 2004**

**FRED SHAFFER**

Cold winter days are some of the best days for birding at Schoolhouse Pond. Huge flocks of gulls can gather on the ice of the pond, and rarities are always a possibility. Schoolhouse Pond is in Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County. It is strategically located between Jug Bay along the Patuxent River and the Brown Station Road landfill. The number of gulls at the pond can be staggering, particularly when a layer of ice is present in winter. Gull numbers frequently exceed 1,000 at mid-day during the winter, and sometimes well over 1,500 gulls can be viewed at a time. Over the course of the last several years, many rare and beautiful gulls have shown up at the pond, but the month of December 2004 exceeded my wildest expectations. For several weeks, it seemed that each day brought a new and surprising gull, and many Maryland birders came by to inspect the daily group of gulls scattered across the ice.

Through early December, large numbers of gulls had been seen daily at the pond, but nothing rarer than a Lesser Black-backed Gull had been spotted. However, during lunch on December 14, I was fortunate to pick out a 1st winter Iceland Gull. Its creamy, off-white plumage stood out from the surrounding Ring-billed, Herring, and Laughing Gulls. I got good looks at this bird as it rested on the pond, flew around briefly at the passing of a Bald Eagle, and then came to rest again. Seeing an Iceland Gull is a highlight of any winter of gull watching. However, it was only the beginning of an exciting few weeks.

Two days later, as I trudged up the stairs at work (across the street from the pond), Jim Stasz raced past me the other direction with his binoculars around his neck, exclaiming "Hans Holbrook has a Black-headed Gull on the pond!" I grabbed my bins and bolted back down the stairs and outside to the pier, where Hans had the gull in his scope: a beautiful non-breeding adult! The gull was distinctive with its pearly-silver mantle, red bill and legs, and dark ear spot. Hans, while looking for the Iceland Gull, had turned up an even rarer bird.

Two days after that, on December 18, Bill Hubick checked the gulls at the pond and relocated the Black-headed Gull. He took some beautiful pictures of the bird standing on the ice and in flight. Also seen that day was a first winter Glaucous Gull, towering over the surrounding Ring-billed Gulls.

I continued to check the gulls daily, but the following week brought the usual mix of Ring-billed Gulls, Herring Gulls, a few late Laughing Gulls, and two Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Laughing Gull numbers dropped dramatically with the onset of cold weather and particularly with the appearance of ice on the pond. The last Laughing Gull of the season was seen on December 25, with none to be seen again until March.



*Black-headed Gull, December 18, 2004. Photo courtesy of Bill Hubick.*

However, on December 24 another report was to come from Upper Marlboro that would draw more attention to the small pond. Sherman Suter, while looking for the Black-headed Gull, found an adult winter Mew Gull (*L. c. brachyrhynchus*). The relatively dark mantle (compared to the surrounding ringers) attracted Sherman's attention, and he took note of the other distinctive field marks of this west-coast gull. A truly spectacular find, and one which would keep birders flocking to Schoolhouse Pond over the coming week to search through the hordes of gulls. Also located on the pond that day was a 1st winter Glaucous Gull, possibly the same bird reported earlier.

Kevin Graff relocated the Mew Gull on the morning of December 26. However, for other birders, the gull proved tantalizingly elusive.



*Black-headed Gull in flight. Photo courtesy of Bill Hubick.*

But, the gull watching continued to be rewarding, with several white-winged gulls being found, as well as significant numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls. The cold, windy afternoon of December 26 found Hans Holbrook, Joel Martin, Robert Hilton, Phil Davis, and myself scanning the ice for the Mew Gull. While this bird was not present, we were happy to find four adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls. This is a high count of adult Lesser Black-backs for the pond. Including the 1st winter Lesser Black-backed Gull seen in the morning by Kevin Graff, a remarkable total of five Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at the pond during the day.

Also present was an adult Glaucous Gull. This beautiful gull kept our attention for some time, as we studied its various field marks. It appeared to be a smallish Glaucous Gull, similar in size to some of the Herring Gulls. However, the wing tips were all white, even when extended. A very pretty gull! Although 1st winter Glaucous Gulls have been reported at the pond from time to time, an adult was quite unexpected.



*A Ring-billed Gull comes in for a closer look. Photo by Fred Shaffer.*

Also present was an adult gull with a mantle intermediate in shade between an adult Lesser Black-backed and Herring Gull. The gull had yellow legs and some head streaking, and was possibly a Lesser Black-backed/Herring Gull hybrid, intermediate in many ways between the two species.

As we were about to conclude our three hours of gull watching, an adult Iceland Gull (Kumlien's) was located at the edge of the ice near some open water. This bird was distinctive from the adult Glaucous Gull, with a rounder head, smaller bill, and the characteristic gray in the wingtips (both at rest and in flight). We enjoyed watching this gull on the ice, and then as it circled the pond several times before flying off.

On December 27, Barry Cooper, Gail Mackiernan, Arlene Ripley, and I studied a very pale, 1st winter Thayer's/Kumlien's Gull at the pond. First identified as a Thayer's Gull, questions arose as to whether the primaries were pale enough for an identification of Kumlien's Gull. Several observers felt that the pale edges of the primaries, the "anchor-shaped" scapular markings, and head and bill size were consistent with an identification of a Thayer's Gull.

However, this pale first year gull illustrates the identification problems that can arise in the field, the necessity of noting and documenting all field marks, and the ensuing debate that can rise from difficult gull identifications.

December 2004 was perhaps the most remarkable month that I've experienced in over sixteen years of birding around Schoolhouse Pond, and five winters of rather intensive gull observations. The Mew Gull and Black-headed Gull were first records for Schoolhouse Pond, and the Mew Gull was a first county record. These reports generated a lot of excitement within the birding community and kept large numbers of birders coming to the pond to sort through the large numbers of gulls that gathered daily on the ice.

The observations from the month further documented the regular occurrence of small numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls at the Schoolhouse Pond. Twelve sightings were recorded during the month of December, and over 100 Lesser Black-backed Gulls have been

**TABLE 1. TOTAL NUMBER OF GULLS AT SCHOOLHOUSE POND IN DECEMBER 2004<sup>1</sup>**

SPECIES	NUMBER
Ring-billed Gull	10,378
Laughing Gull	4,185
Herring Gull	2,599
Great Black-backed Gull	52
Lesser Black-backed Gull	16
Iceland Gull	2
Glaucous Gull	2 <sup>2</sup>
Thayer's/Kumlien's Gull	1
Black-headed Gull	1 <sup>3</sup>
Mew Gull	1 <sup>4</sup>
Possible Lesser Black-backed X Herring Hybrid	1
Totals	17,238

<sup>1</sup> Numbers from personal records, plus some MD Osprey postings.

<sup>2</sup> 1st winter Glaucous Gull seen on December 18, 24 and 26.

<sup>3</sup> Black-headed Gull seen on December 16 and 18.

<sup>4</sup> Mew Gull seen on December 24 and 26.

**TABLE 2. AGE RATIO OF FOUR-YEAR GULLS<sup>5</sup>**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>ADULT</b>	<b>3RD WINTER</b>	<b>2ND WINTER</b>	<b>1ST WINTER</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Great Black-backed Gull	18 (41%)	6 (14%)	4 (9%)	16 (36%)	44
Herring Gull	92 (36%)	18 (7%)	23 (9%)	126 (49%)	259
Lesser Black-backed Gull	7 (44%)	0	1 (6%)	8 (50%)	16
Iceland Gull	1			1	2
Glaucous Gull	1			1 <sup>6</sup>	2
Thayer's/Kumlien's Gull				1	1

**TABLE 3. AGE RATIO OF THREE-YEAR GULLS<sup>5</sup>**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>ADULT</b>	<b>2ND WINTER</b>	<b>1ST WINTER</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Ring-billed Gull	92 (45%)	30 (15%)	82 (40%)	204

<sup>5</sup> Percentages rounded to nearest whole number.

<sup>6</sup> 1st winter Glaucous Gull seen on December 18, 24, and 26.

observed at Schoolhouse Pond during the past four winters (2001–2002 through 2004–2005). The possible Lesser Black-backed/Herring Gull hybrid was another interesting sighting. Observers should be aware of this possibility in the future, and documentation of possible hybrids may be useful in determining the frequency of Lesser Black-backing/Herring Gull hybrids in the area.

The presence of both an adult Glaucous Gull and an adult Iceland Gull on December 27 was also noteworthy. First-year Glaucous and Iceland Gulls seem to be an annual occurrence at the pond, with one or two birds showing up at some point during most winters. However, the occurrence of adult Glaucous and Iceland Gulls on the same afternoon was especially exciting, and had not previously been recorded at Schoolhouse Pond, at least in recent years.

Schoolhouse Pond has been a significant gathering point for gulls for many years. Cold winter days with ice on the pond are perhaps the most productive, but many fall days bring large numbers of Laughing Gulls to the pond, and groups of gulls can frequently be seen flying to and from the Brown Station Road Landfill. However, December 2004 was especially noteworthy due to the significant number of rare gulls to appear at the pond within a relatively short, one-month period. Even if records are kept into the future regarding birds and gulls at Schoolhouse Pond, it is unlikely that the number and variety of rare gulls that occurred during that month will be duplicated.

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*Lesser Black-backed Gulls are regular winter visitors to Schoolhouse Pond.  
An adult is shown. Photo by Fred Shaffer.*





REPORTS BY ROBERT F. RINGLER

### OBSERVERS, ABBREVIATIONS, & LOCATIONS IN THIS ISSUE

**Observers:** Joe Alexander, George Armistead, Harry Armistead, Stan Arnold, Zach Baer, Scott Baron, Mel Baughman, Tyler Bell, Mike Bowen, Gwen Brewer, Jim Brighton, Dave Brinker, Carol Broderick, Don Broderick, Mike Burchett, Danny Bystrak, Cathy Carroll, Rick Cheicante, Martha Chestem, J. B. Churchill, Barry Cooper, Jane Coskren, Keith Costley, Cameron Cox, Scott Crabtree, Marty Cribb, Ralph Cullison, Dave Czaplak, Lynn Davidson, Sam Dyke, Don Eberly, Bill Ellis, Walter Ellison, Mike Erwin, Fred Fallon, Jim Felley, Gail Frantz, Jean Fry (reporting for Harford Co.), Larry Fry, Lynette Fullerton, Greg Futral, Barbara Gearhart, Kevin Graff, Jim Gruber, Paul Guris, Mary Gustafson, Matt Hafner, Sue Hamilton, Joe Hanfman, Bill Harris, Clive Harris, Karen Harris, Robert Hilton, Mark Hoffman, Hans Holbrook, Emmalyn Holdridge, David Holmes, John Hubbell, Steve Huy, Kye Jenkins, George Jett, Greg Kearns, Ray Kiddy, Elliot Kirschbaum, Daniel Kluza, Jane Kostenko, Dave Larkin, Peter Lev, Glenn Lovelace, Gail Mackiernan, John Maloney, Peter Mann, Tom Marko, Andy Martin, Joel Martin, Nancy Martin, Greg Miller, Dave Mozurkewich, Charlie Muise, Sue Neri, Lou Nielsen, Paul O'Brien, Bonnie Ott, Dave Perry, Jim Peters, Paul Pisano, Betty Pitney (reporting for Tri-County Bird Club), Danny Poet, Fran Pope, Dave Powell, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Bob Ringler, Arlene Ripley, Les Roslund, Tina Russo, Denise Ryan, Steve Sanford, Fran Saunders, Norm Saunders, Lydia Schindler, Kurt Schwarz, Fred Shaffer, Don Simonson, Susan Sires, Connie Skipper, Adam Smith, Gary Smyle, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard Co.), Duvall Sollers, Jared Sparks, Chris Starling, Jim Stasz, Rick Sussman, Debbie Terry, Mary Ann Todd, Charlie Vaughn, Jason Waanders, Marcia Watson, Dave Weesner, Hal Wierenga, Jordan Wilkerson, Jim Wilkinson, Levin Wiley, Paul Woodward, Helen Zeichner.

**Abbreviations:** AA – Anne Arundel Co.; AL – Allegany Co.; BA – Baltimore Co.; BC – Baltimore City; CBEC – Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, QA; CE – Cecil Co.; CH – Charles Co.; CL – Carroll Co.; CN – Caroline Co.; CT – Calvert Co.; DC – District of Columbia; DO – Dorchester Co.; FR – Frederick Co.; GA – Garrett Co.; HA – Harford Co.; HO – Howard Co.; KE – Kent Co.; MO – Montgomery Co.; MPEA – Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, HO; NA – Natural Area; NEA – Natural Environmental Area; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; PG – Prince George's Co.; PRNAS – Patuxent River Naval Air

Station, SM; PRR – Patuxent Research Refuge, PG/AA; QA – Queen Anne’s Co.; RP – Regional Park; SM – St. Mary’s Co.; SO – Somerset Co.; SP – State Park; TA – Talbot Co.; UMBC – University of Maryland at Baltimore County, BA; UMCF – University of Maryland Central Farm, HO; WA – Washington Co.; WI – Wicomico Co.; WO – Worcester Co.; WMA – Wildlife Management Area.

**Locations (followed by abbreviation of county):** Aberdeen Proving Ground, HA; Allens Fresh, CH; Alpha Ridge Landfill & Park, HO; Aqualand Marina, CH; Ashton, MO; Assateague Island, WO; Back River, BA; Barren Island, DO; Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, CT; Beltsville, PG; Berlin, WO; Bethel WMA, CE; Beulah, DO; Bivalve, WI; Black Hill RP, MO; Blackwalnut Point, TA; Blackwater NWR, DO; Bloodsworth Island, DO; Bowie, PG; Brighton Dam, HO/MO; Brookview, DO; California, SM; Cambridge, DO; Central Sod Farms, QA; Chesapeake Farms, KE; Chesapeake Landing, KE; Chestertown, KE; Chino Farms, QA; Cliffs City Landing, KE; Clopper Lake, MO; Columbia, HO; Conowingo Dam & Lake, HA/CE; Cornfield Harbor, SM; Cove Point, CT; Cranesville Swamp, GA; Cromwell Valley Park, BA; Cumberland, AL; Cylburn Arboretum, BC; Dans Mountain, AL; Deal Island WMA, SO; E. A. Vaughn WMA, WO; Eagles Nest Campground, WO; East Potomac Park, DC; Eastern Neck Island NWR, KE; Easton, TA; Edgewood, HA; Elkton, CE; Ellicott City, HO; Elliott Island, DO; Elms Beach Park, SM; Federalsburg, CN; Finzel Swamp, GA; Flag Ponds Park, CT; Fort McHenry, BC; Fran Uhler NA, PG; Frederick, FR; George Island Landing, WO; Great Oak Pond, KE; Greenbrier SP, WA; Hains Point, DC; Halethorpe Ponds, BA/AA; Hart-Miller Dredged Material Containment Facility, BA; Havre de Grace, HA; Herrington Manor SP, GA; Holland Island, DO; Hooper Island, DO; Hughes Hollow, MO; Hurllock, DO; Irish Grove Sanctuary, SO; Jefferson Patterson Park, CT; Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, AA; Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC; Kenilworth Park, DC; Kent Island, QA; Kent Narrows, QA; Kinder Farm Park, AA; Kingman Lake, DC; Lake Artemesia, PG; Lake Elkhorn, HO; Lake Kittamaquindi, HO; Lake Roland, BA; Lakeside Business Park, HA; Lambs Knoll, WA; Layhill Park, MO; Liberty Lake & Watershed, CL/BA; Lilypons, FR; Little Bennett RP, MO; Little Meadows Lake, GA; Little Seneca Lake, MO; Loch Raven Reservoir & Watershed, BA; Mason Dixon Farm, FR; Mattawoman NEA, CH; Meadowbrook Park, HO; Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, PG; Milford Mill Park, BA; Milltown Landing WMA, PG; Morgan Run NEA, CL; Morgantown, CH; Mount Pleasant, HO; Mt. Nebo WMA, GA; Nanticoke, WI; New Germany SP, GA; North Beach, CT; North Branch, AL; North Point SP, BA; North Tract PRR, AA; Oak Grove, CN; Ocean City, WO; Parsonsburg, WI; Perryman, HA; Perryville, CE; Pickering Creek Audubon Center, TA; Piney Reservoir, GA; Piney Run Park, CL; Piscataway Creek, PG; Point Lookout SP, SM; Pomonkey Creek, CH; Poplar Island, TA; Pry Island, SO; Pylesville, HA; Queenstown, QA; Ridge, SM; Ridgely, CN; Rigby’s Folly, TA; Rock Creek Park, DC; Rock Hall, KE; Rockburn Branch Park, HO; Rockville, MO; Rocky Gap SP, AL; Salisbury, WI; Sandy Point SP, AA; Seneca Creek SP, MO; Sherwood, TA; Smith Island, SO; Spring Island, DO; Stevensville, QA; Swallow Falls SP, GA; Swan Harbor Farm, HA; Sycamore Landing, MO; Taylors Landing, WO; Terrapin Nature Area, QA; Tidal Basin, DC; Tilghman Island, TA; Tolchester, KE; Town Hill, AL; Triadelphia Reservoir, HO/MO; Truitts Landing, WO; Turkey Point, CE; Upper Marlboro, PG; Upper Watts Branch Park, MO; Violettes Lock, MO; Waldorf, CH; Washington Monument SP, WA; West Ocean City, WO; Western RP, HO; Wilde Lake, HO; Worton, KE; Wye Island, QA.

## BREEDING SEASON: JUNE 1–JULY 31, 2003

The weather was cool with many days of rain. This adversely affected many nesting species, especially those nesting on beaches and in marshes.

*Geese, Swans, Ducks.* There were eight **Snow Geese**, including two blues, at Hurlock on June 5 but the number was down to six birds, including the blues, on July 27 (H. Armistead). There were 295 **Mute Swans** at Bloodsworth Island on June 6 (H. Armistead +). A **Tundra Swan** was also at Hurlock on June 5 (H. Armistead). Two **Gadwalls** were unexpected at Poplar Island on June 20 as was one **American Wigeon** seen on June 10 and 20 (Reese). Eight American Wigeons at Elliott Island on Aug. 2 (Greg Miller +) were also out of place. A female **Blue-winged Teal** with 10 young near Queenstown on July 15 (Ned Gerber) were at a new location. Late migrating **Redheads** were one at Lake Artemesia on June 2 (Mozurkewich) and two at Clopper Lake through June 19 (Powell). A male and a female **Ring-necked Duck** were at Lake Elkhorn from May through June 9 with the female seen through July 24 (Neri +); a male was at Little Meadows Lake on June 28 (Ringler). June reports of **Lesser Scaup** were one at Clopper Lake on the 1<sup>st</sup> (Czaplak), two at Hurlock on the 5<sup>th</sup> (H. Armistead), a male at Great Oak Pond on the 20<sup>th</sup> that remained into November (Ellison), and a male at Boonsboro, WA on the 13<sup>th</sup> through July 10 (Weesner). Summering **Surf Scoters** included a female at Ocean City on June 1 (Graff), 20 at Rigby's Folly on June 8 with two males there on Aug. 2 and one female on Sept. 7 (H. Armistead), one in Eastern Bay off Turkey Point, QA on June 17 (Crabtree), 18 at Poplar Island on June 20 with four remaining on July 31 (Reese), and eight in Prospect Bay, QA on July 6 (Crabtree, Graff) with one on Aug. 3 (Graff). Reese spotted the only summering **White-winged Scoters** with six at Poplar Island on June 20, down to four on July 7–21. The only summering **Black Scoters** were two at Poplar Island on July 7 (Reese), a male at Point Lookout on July 11 (Cribb), and six in the mouth of Irish Creek, TA on Aug. 2 (H. Armistead) with one female there on Aug. 31 (G. Armistead, Tina Russo) and Sept. 14 (H. Armistead). **Long-tailed Ducks** this summer were eight at Poplar Island on June 10, three there on July 7 (Reese), and a female on the Chester River near Queenstown on June 25 (Poet). A **Bufflehead** remained at Clopper Lake through June 8 (Powell) and a male was at Fort McHenry on July 8 (Peters). A **Common Goldeneye** was at Poplar Island on June 4–20 (Reese). A female **Hooded Merganser** with at least four downy young was near Croom, PG on June 28 (Jeff Shenot). Summering **Red-breasted Mergansers** were a female at Bloodsworth Island on June 6 (H. Armistead), one at Clopper Lake through June 8 (Powell), a drake at McMillan Reservoir, DC on June 22 (Ryan), a female on the Chester River near Queenstown on June 25 (Poet), and a drake at Point Lookout on July 13 (Cribb). A small flock of male and female **Ruddy Ducks** was at Beltsville on June 11 (Fallon, Ed Clark), seven were at Boonsboro, WA on June 27 (Weesner), a male in breeding plumage was at Pylesville on July 14 (L. Fry), two were at Poplar Island on July 21 (Reese), numbers at Hurlock peaked at 22 on July 27 (H. Armistead), and five were at Chestertown from Aug. 31 through Sept. 21 (Ellison +).

*Loons, Grebes.* A **Red-throated Loon** at Fort McHenry on June 15 (Holbrook, Brigh-ton) was an exceptionally late straggler. **Common Loons** also lingered with one flying south over Bloodsworth Island on June 3 (H. Armistead, Vaughn), one at Hurlock on June 5 (H. Armistead), two at Poplar Island on June 4 with one staying to June 10 (Reese), and one at the Tidal Basin from June 10 through July 3 (Felley). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** at Beltsville on June 11 (Fallon, Ed Clark) were suggestive of breeding; more definite was one with four downy young at Swan Harbor Farm on July 20–27 (Hafner +). Possible early fall migrant Pied-billed Grebes were one at Elliott Island on July 17 (H. Armistead) and one at Lake Elkhorn on July 19 (Neri). A **Horned Grebe** seen at Poplar Island on June 4 and July 7 (Reese)

was unseasonable. Remnants of the large numbers of **Red-necked Grebes** in spring were one at Loch Raven on June 21 (Lori Brown) and a breeding plumage bird at McMillan Reservoir, DC on June 22 (Ryan).

*Tubenoses, Gannets.* On the June 7 pelagic trip 17 **Sooty Shearwaters**, four **Greater Shearwaters**, 75 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**, and one **Northern Gannet** were seen in Maryland waters (Guris +). Wilson's Storm-Petrels were also seen from Ocean City on several dates from May 29 through July 16 with three on May 30 (Hafner); singles were seen in Chesapeake Bay from the Smith Island ferry from June 19 in Somerset Co. waters (Cribb) to July 20 in St. Mary's Co. waters (Graff). Shaffer saw two gannets off Assateague on June 20.

*Pelicans, Cormorants.* An **American White Pelican** was seen on the Patuxent River near Bowling Landing, PG for a few days in mid June through the 14<sup>th</sup> (Kearns +); one reported on the Susquehanna Flats, CE in mid June (*fide* Starling) may have been the same bird. Nesting **Brown Pelicans** have been moving their colonies in Chesapeake Bay. This year there were no nests on Spring Island despite 150 birds present there on June 3; however, on Pry Island that day 49 nests were counted, four with no eggs, five with one egg, 24 with two eggs, and 16 with three eggs (H. Armistead, Vaughn). At the latter site they also found a dead pelican that had been banded at Oregon Inlet, NC on July 5, 2000 by John Weske. In July Brinker and party banded 54 Brown Pelicans on Pry Island and another eight on the south end of Barren Island. A Brown Pelican reported off Turkey Point on June 24 (*fide* Starling) was the farthest up the bay with two seen in Prospect Bay, QA on July 6 and Aug. 2 (Graff). Cribb estimated an astounding 1,000 Brown Pelicans at Smith Island (not far from the breeding sites in Maryland and Virginia) on July 4 and 65 were at Ocean City on July 9 (H. Armistead +). Early in the season 495 nests of **Double-crested Cormorants** were found at Poplar Island (Erwin). At Spring Island on June 3 there were 155 occupied cormorant nests and on Pry Island there were two nests with two eggs (H. Armistead, Vaughn). At the colony near Cabin John, MO there were six visible cormorant nests with young on June 15, though at least 10 nests were seen earlier in the year (C. Harris). Away from nest sites, cormorants continued to be seen including two at Lake Kittamaqundi and four at Wilde Lake on June 2 (Zeichner), one at Piney Reservoir on June 29 (Ringler), and 86 at Ocean City on July 13 (Graff).

*Herons, Ibises.* An **American Bittern** at Cheltenham Wetlands Park, PG on June 6 (Fallon) was intriguing at that time and location. Piedmont reports of **Least Bitterns** were one at UMCF from May 21 through June 4 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem +) and one at the north end of Liberty Lake, CL from May 30 through June 2 (Frantz); one was also reported at Terrapin on June 2 (K. & B. Harris). About 120 **Great Blue Heron** nests were occupied at Bloodsworth Island on June 3 (H. Armistead, Vaughn). In Howard Co. there were 12 nests at Vantage Point and five nests at Lake Kittamaqundi with 17 birds present at the latter site on June 30 (Chestem, Zeichner). On July 4 Cribb estimated 50 Great Blues at Smith Island. Willey counted 168 **Great Egrets** going to roost at Blackwater on June 8 together with 58 **Snowy Egrets**. Other Great Egrets of note were one at Shelter Cove, CE on June 22 (Starling), five at Lakeside on June 28 (Larkin), one at the Tidal Basin on July 3 (Felley), and 120 at Smith Island on July 4 (Cribb). Most notable was the adult Great Egret feeding young at a nest in the midst of a Great Blue Heron colony on the Potomac River near Sandy Hook, WA opposite milepost 59 of the C&O Canal on July 6 (Czaplak). A Snowy Egret at Frederick on June 19 (Gearhart, Smyle) was unexpected. Roslund found 14 Snowies at Pickering Creek on July 23 and the count of **Little Blue Herons** at Smith Island on July 4 was 80 (Cribb). A first for the state was a dark morph **Reddish Egret** seen at Ocean City on June 23 (Hubbell). Interesting reports of **Cattle Egrets** were four at Cromwell Business Park near BWI Airport, AA on

June 22 (Arnold), two adults at Ferndale, AA on June 26 (Harvey Welsh), 52 at North Point SP on July 7 (Mary Chetelat), and one at Upper Marlboro on July 31 (Shaffer). Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons**, including one adult, were at Wilde Lake from June 2 through much of the summer (Zeichner +); other Howard Co. sightings were one at Clarksville on June 10 (Coskren, Solem) and one at Lake Kittamaquidi on July 29 (Neri). In Baltimore Co. three adult and two immature Black-crowns were seen on Sue Creek on June 15 (Brent & Mary Byers) but no nests were observed. At Culler Lake in Frederick two adults and four immature Black-crowns were seen at nests on July 21 (David Wallace). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** away from nesting areas were one at Point of Rocks, FR on June 19 (Smyle) and an immature at Pickering Creek on July 24 (Roslund). Reports of **Glossy Ibis** included three at PRNAS on June 4 (Rambo, Jim Swift), one at Swan Harbor Farm on June 25 (Dave Ziolkowski), 20 at Smith Island on July 4 (Cribb), and six at North Point SP on July 7 (Mary Chetelat).

*Diurnal Raptors.* Wandering **Ospreys** included one at Pylesville on June 1-9 (J. & L. Fry), one on the Potomac River at Sandy Hook, WA on June 15 (Scott Edie, Julie Maynard), one at Dorsey, HO on June 16 (Coskren, Solem +), one at Hughes Hollow on June 16 (Woodward), and another in Howard Co. on June 22 (Ott). A **Mississippi Kite** was seen between the Blackwater River and the town of Church Creek, DO on June 21 (Davidson, Wierenga). A female **Northern Harrier** on Dans Mountain on June 13 (Sires) may have been breeding nearby but an immature flying north past Carpenters Point Neck, CE on June 25 (Starling) was not. **Northern Goshawks** were active at two sites in Garrett Co. this year (Brinker). Three juvenile **American Kestrels** at Salisbury on July 20 (Dyke) were a local brood.

*Rallids, Plovers, Oystercatchers, Stilts, Avocets.* Single **Black Rails** were heard on Fishing Creek, DO on June 14 (Carroll) and at Elliott Island on Aug. 2 (Miller +). A **Virginia Rail** was at UMCf on June 3-4 (Coskren, Solem +). **Soras** that may have been late migrants were one near Sycamore Landing on June 1 (Czaplak), one heard at the north end of Liberty Lake, CL on June 3 (Holbrook), and one near Woodsboro, FR on June 3 (Judy Burdette); one at Swan Harbor Farm on July 18 (Cheicante) and one heard at Hughes Hollow on July 27 (Czaplak), where two were heard on Aug. 2 (Sussman, Helen Patton), may have been breeders or early fall migrants. A **Common Moorhen** was heard at Hughes Hollow from July 27 through Aug. 12 (Czaplak +) and an adult with two young was at West Ocean City on Aug. 10 (Graft). Summering **American Coots** were one at Funkstown, WA on June 23 (Ann Mitchell), two at Havre de Grace on July 5 (Starling), and one at Hughes Hollow on July 27 (Frank Boyle). Late spring **Black-bellied Plovers** were two at Poplar Island on June 4 (Reese) and two at Bloodsworth Island on June 6 (H. Armistead +); one at Ocean City on July 9 (H. Armistead) may have summered locally and a probable early fall migrant was at Poplar Island on July 21 (Reese). Spring **Semipalmated Plovers** included 29 at Poplar Island on June 4 (Reese) and one at Holland Island on June 6 (H. Armistead +); fall migrants included 51 at Poplar Island on July 21 (Reese). On July 16 Hafner and Baer saw 12 **Piping Plovers** from Eagles Nest. The first sign of **Killdeer** flocking for fall migration was 13 at Swan Harbor Farm on June 29 (Larkin). Holbrook and Brighton counted 54 **American Oystercatchers** at Ocean City on July 27. Two **Black-necked Stilts** were at Blackwater on June 2 (H. Armistead) and two were at Elliott Island on Aug. 2 (Miller +). Early fall migrant **American Avocets** were two at Poplar Island on July 7 (Reese) and two at Fort McHenry on July 28 (Peters).

*Sandpipers.* Two **Greater Yellowlegs** at Elliott Island on June 20 (Shaffer) and several at Salisbury on June 26 (C. & D. Broderick) may have been early fall migrants. Reese estimated 125 **Lesser Yellowlegs** and 12 **Willetts** at Poplar Island on July 21. Early **Solitary Sandpipers** were three at Swan Harbor Farm on July 6 (Larkin) and one at Little Pipe Creek Park, CL on

July 9 (Ringler). **Spotted Sandpipers** are always a challenge to place in migration or breeding. Likely late spring Spotted were two at North Liberty Lake, CL on June 3 (Holbrook), six at Poplar Island on June 4 (Reese), one at Lake Elkhorn on June 5 (Wilkinson), and seven at Hurlock on June 5 (H. Armistead); one at Lakeside on June 15 (Larkin) is difficult to judge. Likely fall migrant Spotted were four at Smith Island on July 4 (Cribb), two at CBEC on July 6 (Graff), and 13 at Poplar Island on July 21 (Reese). An adult Spotted Sandpiper with one downy young was near Cherry Creek, GA on June 28 (Pope). Early fall migrant **Whimbrels** included seven at Assateague on July 13 (Czaplak, Todd), one at Eagles Nest and 10 at Ocean City on July 16 (Hafner, Baer), and 85 on Assateague on July 27 (Brighton, Holbrook). Late spring **Ruddy Turnstones** were six at Adam Island, DO on June 6 (H. Armistead +) and two at Poplar Island on June 10 (Reese); an early fall migrant was at the latter site on July 21 (Reese). Similarly, late spring **Sanderlings** included 24 at Poplar Island on June 4 (Reese) and two at Bloodworth Island on June 6 (H. Armistead +); early fall birds were four at Smith Island on July 4 (Cribb) and 515 at Ocean City on July 31 (H. Armistead). On June 2 there were 240 late spring **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at Blackwater and another 30 near there (H. Armistead), and on June 4 Reese counted 1,009 at Poplar Island where there were 1,238 fall migrants on July 21. **Western Sandpipers** were few with two at Pickering Creek on July 18 (Roslund), seven at Poplar Island on July 21 (Reese), and one at Lake Roland on July 26 (Lev). Two **Least Sandpipers** at Poplar Island on June 4 were late for the spring and 139 fall migrants were there on July 21 (Reese). Reese also found 11 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Poplar Island on July 21. A summering **Purple Sandpiper** was at Assateague on July 27 (Brighton, Holbrook). The first fall **Stilt Sandpipers** were one at Poplar Island on July 21 (Reese) and one at Pickering Creek from July 23 through Aug. 1 (Roslund +). Fall migrant **Short-billed Dowitchers** included 30 at Poplar Island on July 2 (Reese), two at Ocean City on July 9 (H. Armistead), two at Blackwater on July 17 (H. Armistead), six at Pickering Creek on July 23 (Roslund), and 62 at Truitts Landing on July 28 (C. & D. Broderick).

*Gulls, Terns, Skimmers.* Five **Laughing Gulls** at Kent Narrows on July 6 (Graff) were unusual but the 3,000 visiting the hog farm near Brookview on July 12 (Lovelace) were not. A juvenile **Bonaparte's Gull** at Violettes Lock from July 25 through Aug. 1 (Czaplak +) was also unexpected. July reports of **Ring-billed Gulls** that may have referred to summering birds or early fall migrants were one at Kent Narrows on July 6 (Graff), two at Elliott Island on July 17 (H. Armistead), five at Long Gate Shopping Center, HO on July 21 (Ott), and 71 at Poplar Island on July 21 (Reese). Erwin estimated 190 **Herring Gull** nests at Poplar Island on May 13 and there were 37 nests at Pry Island on June 3 (H. Armistead, Vaughn). Reese counted 1,016 **Great Black-backed Gulls** at Poplar Island on July 21. A **Gull-billed Tern** at Poplar Island on June 25 (Reese) was a rarity there; more expected were an immature at Truitts Landing on July 16 (Hafner, Baer, Powell) and one at Assateague on July 27 (Brighton, Holbrook). Probable post-breeding **Caspian Terns** were one at Bivalve on June 20 (C. & D. Broderick), one at Poplar Island on July 9 (Reese), two at Ocean City on July 19 (Crabtree), and three at Blackwater on July 27 (H. Armistead). Reese recorded 10 non-breeding **Royal Terns** at Poplar Island on June 4 and one there on July 21; meanwhile, 263 young were banded at Ocean City on July 9 and 211 banded on July 31 (John Weske, Brinker +). **Sandwich Terns** were seen throughout the summer on the coast with peaks of three at Ocean City and one at Eagles Nest on July 16 (Hafner, Baer) and four at Ocean City and one at Assateague on July 27 (Brighton, Holbrook). Erwin counted 827 **Common Tern** nests at Poplar Island on June 27; unusual were three at Kent Narrows on July 6 (Graff). An **Arctic Tern** was seen in Maryland waters on the June 7 pelagic trip (Guris +). Five **Least Terns** at Lakeside on June 28 (Larkin) probably came from a nearby colony; 76 nests were at Poplar Island on July 2 (Erwin) and a downy young was seen there on the late date of July 31 (Reese,

Roslund). Sightings of **Black Terns** were two at Assateague on July 13 (Czaplak, Todd), two on the Potomac River off Piscataway Park, PG, on July 20 (Shaffer), 21 at Assateague on July 27 (Brighton, Holbrook), and one at Poplar Island on July 31 (Reese, Roslund). Four **Black Skimmers** were a rarity at Poplar Island on June 4 and single birds were seen there on June 20 and July 31 (Reese); eight were at Smith Island on July 4 (Cribb). Skimmer nests were seen at Ocean City on July 9 (H. Armistead +).

*Cuckoos, Owls, Nighthawks, Swifts, Kingfisher, Sapsuckers.* Coastal Plain reports of **Black-billed Cuckoos** were one near Bowie on July 20 (Fallon) and one heard at PRNAS on July 21 (Rambo). Two **Barn Owls** were at Ridge on July 31 (Rambo). Two **Common Nighthawks** at Assateague on June 15 (Greg Coniglio) may have been local breeders. Late spring migrant **Chimney Swifts** were one at Poplar Island on June 4 (Reese) and two at Holland Island on June 6 (H. Armistead +). A female **Belted Kingfisher** at Ewell, Smith Island on July 31 (H. Armistead) was an early fall migrant. Adult **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were active at three nest sites in Garrett Co. this summer; young were heard in a nest cavity on July 16 (Pope).

*Flycatchers, Crow, Swallows.* An **Alder Flycatcher** at Herring Run Park, BC on June 8-9 (Carroll) was certainly a late spring migrant which may also have been the case of a **Least Flycatcher** at the same place on June 8-12 (Carroll) and a Least on the C&O Canal near Glen Echo, MO on June 1 (Frank Powers); a Least at Mount Pleasant on July 19 (Ott, Cullison) was a potential breeder or a very early fall migrant. A **Western Kingbird** returned to Fort McHenry where it was seen June 10 through July 31 (Peters +) sharing nesting activities with an **Eastern Kingbird**; young Eastern Kingbirds were successfully raised. An Eastern Kingbird at Poplar Island on June 10 (Reese) was probably a late spring migrant. A partial albino **American Crow** with white wing patches was at Salisbury on July 31 (C. & D. Broderick). An adult and five fledged young **Tree Swallows** were at Lake Kittamaqundi on June 2 (Zeichner) and several hundred fall migrants had gathered at Conowingo Dam on July 3 (John Baur). The first fall migrant **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was noted at Hughes Hollow on June 30 (Woodward). A few **Bank Swallows** at Hurlock on June 5 (H. Armistead) and one at UMCF on June 14 (Ott) may have been late spring migrants. A colony of about 20 Bank Swallow nests was discovered at Dorsey, HO in June (Maloney +). Fall migrant Bank Swallows had massed to 475 at Hurlock on July 27 (H. Armistead). Four or five nests of **Cliff Swallows** were discovered at a bridge over Broad Creek, Susquehanna SP, HA on June 15 (Burchett, Hafner) and two likely nest sites were found at the bridge over Marshyhope Creek in Brookview on June 21; two birds were still present there on July 12 (Lovelace). Reese tallied 238 **Barn Swallows**, mostly migrants, at Poplar Island on July 21; young were still in a nest at Worton, KE on Aug. 28 (Ellison).

*Mimids, Waxwings, Warblers, Tanager.* A leucistic **Gray Catbird**, present for a second consecutive year at Longfellow, Columbia, was seen from spring through the summer (Chester, Zeichner, Sue Probst). A **Northern Mockingbird** at Bloodworth Island on June 3 (H. Armistead, Vaughn) may not have found a mate at that salt marsh site; one near Kempton, GA on July 17 (Pope) was a surprise. A pair of **Cedar Waxwings** was nest-building at UMCF on the late date of July 31 (Ott, Holdridge). Two **Blue-winged Warblers** were singing at Mt. Nebo on June 7 (Pope); a pair was feeding young at Patapsco Valley SP, HO on July 6 (Joe Byrnes). In Garrett Co. a male **Brewster's Warbler** hybrid singing a Golden-winged Warbler song near Shallmar on June 29 appeared to be paired with a female **Golden-winged Warbler** which was carrying food; another Brewster's was near Short Run on July 11 (Ringler). A singing male **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was near Exline, WA on June 15 (Weesner). A pair of

**Yellow-rumped Warblers** was at New Germany SP on June 29 (Czaplak, Todd). This is one of the few places in the state where the species is known to nest. Two **Black-throated Green Warblers** were on South Mountain near Rohrsersville, WA on July 13 (Julie Maynard). A **Blackpoll Warbler** singing near Glen Burnie, AA on June 8 (Arnold) was a very late spring migrant but this was topped by the two singing on the C&O Canal, DC on June 22 (Bowen). A male **Black-and-white Warbler** on the Mall, DC on July 21 (Fellej) was an early fall migrant. An orange variant **Scarlet Tanager** was at North Tract PRR from May 28 through June 4 (Schwarz).

*Sparrows, Grosbeak, Dickcissels, Cowbirds, Cardueline Finches.* Two **Savannah Sparrows** singing near Carrs Mill, HO on June 10 (Coskren, Solem) may have been stragglers; the four singing near St. Augustine, CE on June 17 (Ellison) were definitely on territory. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** at Fort McHenry on June 16 (Peters) was unlikely as a breeder and extraordinarily late for a migrant. Arnold heard a **Henslow's Sparrow** singing at Pea Ridge, GA on June 15. Only six **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were found at Elliott Island on July 27 with 26 **Seaside Sparrows** (H. Armistead). Two Seaside Sparrows and one **Swamp Sparrow** were at CBEC on July 6 and one of each was there on Aug. 3 (Graff). Summer reports of **White-throated Sparrows** were one at Parsonsburg from May 30 through June 13 (Pitney), one at Darnestown on July 3 (Schindler), and one at Frederick from May through the summer into October (David Wallace). An adult **White-crowned Sparrow** at Ashton, WA on June 11 (Tom Feild) was a record-late straggler. A **Dark-eyed Junco** was holding territory at High Rock, GA on July 20 (Pope). A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was reported at Meadowbrook in mid July (*fide* Ott). Coastal Plain reports of **Dickcissels** were a female at Hooper Island on June 9 (Willey), two singing near Ingleside, QA on June 26 (Dave Perry), one singing near Federalsburg and two singing near Harmony, CN on June 28 (Lovelace), and three singing near Bridgetown, CN from June 29 through July 20 (Ellison, N. Martin +). About 255 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were tallied at Hurlock on July 27 (H. Armistead). A yellow variant **House Finch** was at Kinder Farm Park on July 9 (Harvey Welsh). A **Pine Siskin** was at Swallow Falls SP on June 28 (Baron) and one was at Fran Pope's feeder in Mountain Lake Park, GA on July 1.

*Exotics.* On July 13 Joe Halloran found two **Graylag Geese** and one hybrid at Daniels, HO.

## FALL MIGRATION: AUG. 1 – NOV. 30, 2003

Hurricane Isabel on Sept. 19 was the major weather feature of this season though the passage of numerous cold fronts made the birding exciting also.

*Geese, Swans.* An adult **Greater White-fronted Goose** together with an apparent adult hybrid with a **Canada Goose** was at Great Oak Pond on Oct. 10 with the hybrid seen again on Oct. 31 (Ellison), an immature was at Chestertown on Oct. 11-13 (Ellison +), and another adult was at Chino Farms on Nov. 23 (Gruber). High counts of **Snow Geese** were 750 of the blue morph at Blackwater on Nov. 16 (H. Armistead +), 4,000 (including 60 blues) at Great Oak Pond on Nov. 9 and 8,000 at Worton on Nov. 11 (Ellison); unusual were eight flyovers near Lilypons on Nov. 15 (Marko). Two adult **Ross's Geese** were at Great Oak Pond on Oct. 3-11, one was seen through Nov. 9, and an immature was there on Nov. 16 (Ellison +). An apparent adult hybrid Snow Goose X Ross's Goose was there on Oct. 10 and an immature



hybrid on Oct. 10-19 (Ellison +). Other Ross's Geese were a flyover at Assateague on Nov. 15 (Holbrook, Brighton) and one at Blackwater on Nov. 23 (H. Armistead +). Aberrant Canada Geese in Kent Co. on Nov. 16 were one with white neck and head at Broad Neck Landing and two with mostly white bodies at Chesapeake Farms (Ellison, N. Martin). Small race Canada Geese numbered three at Great Oak Pond on Oct. 3-10, one was there on Nov. 16 (Ellison +), one at Chestertown on Oct. 5 (Crabtree), and seven at Chino Farms on Nov. 20 (Gruber). The first **Brant** of the season were 40 at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +); unexpected was an immature on Leeds Creek, TA on Nov. 12 (Roslund). Sparks tallied 465 **Mute Swans** at Hooper Island on Sept. 21. Exceptionally early were 23 **Tundra Swans** at Wilde Lake on Oct. 11 (Zeichner); the biggest flight occurred on Nov. 7 when 400 were seen over Waldorf (Jett).

*Puddle Ducks.* Hoffman saw about 50 **Wood Ducks** migrating past Assateague on Oct. 16; the latest inland were five at Liberty Lake on Nov. 23 (Ringler +). Early **Gadwalls** were one at Pickering Creek on Sept. 7 (Ellison +) and one at Piney Run on Sept. 19 (Ringler); highs were 100 at Mattawoman NEA on Nov. 11 (Jett, Brewer), 51 at Loch Raven on Nov. 20 (Jenkins), and 133 at Perryville on Nov. 24 (Starling). Early **American Wigeons** were single birds at Piney Reservoir on Sept. 19 (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox), at Piney Run on Sept. 19 (Ringler), at Bethel WMA on Sept. 21 (Hubbell), and near Eastern Neck on Sept. 21 (Ellison +); highs were 400 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 7 (Ringler), 500 at Mattawoman NEA on Nov. 11 (Jett, Brewer), 100 at Loch Raven on Nov. 12 (E. Kirschbaum +), and 65 at Piney Run on Nov. 27 (Ringler). An early **American Black Duck** was at UMCF on Aug. 23 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem). Late **Blue-winged Teal** on Nov. 9 were one at Chestertown (Ellison) and one near Queenstown (Crabtree +). A molting male **Cinnamon Teal** was reported at Hart-Miller on Aug. 30 (Stasz, Hafner, Holbrook). A **Northern Shoveler** at North Branch on Sept. 1 (Kiddy, Churchill) was rare there; high counts were 270 at Chestertown on Sept. 21 (Ellison +), 130 at Hurlock on Sept. 21 (H. Armistead, Sparks), and 99 at Poplar Island on Oct. 8 (Reese). High counts of **Northern Pintails** were 300 at Blackwater on Oct. 26 (H. Armistead +), 190 at Chesapeake Farms on Nov. 9 (Ellison), 100 near Queenstown on Nov. 9 (Crabtree +), 150 at Mattawoman NEA on Nov. 11 (Jett, Brewer), and 200 at Golden Hill, DO on Nov. 22 (H. Armistead, Sparks). Three **Green-winged Teal** at Chestertown on Aug. 31 (Ellison, N. Martin) were early; highs were 225 at Blackwater on Sept. 18 (H. Armistead), 60 at Mason Dixon Farm on Oct. 4 (Ringler, Ellis), 130 at Pickering Creek on Oct. 27 (Roslund), and 200 near Queenstown on Nov. 9 (Crabtree +).

*Diving Ducks, Turkeys.* A drake **Redhead** at New Windsor, CL on Oct. 19 (Terry, Ringler) was exceptionally early. A **Ring-necked Duck** at Piney Run on Sept. 19 (Ringler) and a female at Chesapeake Farms on Sept. 21 (Ellison +) may have summered locally; high counts of migrants were 700 at Loch Raven on Nov. 12 (E. Kirschbaum +), 1,250 at Piney Run on Nov. 15 (Ringler), and 358 at Perryville on Nov. 24 (Starling). A female **Greater Scaup** at Loch Raven on Nov. 2 (Jenkins) was the only inland report. The drake **Lesser Scaup** summering at Great Oak Pond was seen through Oct. 3 (Ellison, N. Martin) and one at Poplar Island on Oct. 8 (Reese) was probably a migrant. Two **King Eiders**, an immature male and a female, were at Ocean City on Nov. 18-22 (Hafner +). At least two female **Common Eiders** were at Ocean City on Nov. 8 (Ringler) but Hafner upped the count to 14 (ten immature males and four females) on the 18<sup>th</sup>. A female **Harlequin Duck** was at Ocean City on Nov. 22 (Holbrook, Brighton). A **Surf Scoter** at the mouth of Huntingfield Creek, KE on Sept. 21 (Ellison +) was probably the first migrant noted this season and 180 were at Blackwalnut Point on Nov. 14 (Ellison, Mann); inland reports were 28 at Lake Artemesia on Oct. 11 (Mozurkewich) and three at Triadelphia on Oct. 23 (Holdridge, Solem). The only **White-winged Scoters** reported were one at Halethorpe Ponds, BA on Nov. 11 (Arnold) and eight at Ocean City on Nov. 18

(Hafner). The first migrant **Black Scoters** were four at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), one at Eastern Neck on the Chester River on Oct. 19 (Ellison +), two females at Sandy Point on Nov. 8 (Ellison +), and seven at Point Lookout on Nov. 9 (Baron). **Long-tailed Ducks** west of Chesapeake Bay were four at Triadelphia on Oct. 23 (Holdridge, Solem), one at Piscataway on Nov. 7 (Mozurkewich), and a male at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 8 (Sussman +); 80 were at Cliffs City Landing on Nov. 16 (Ellison, N. Martin). Early **Buffleheads** were six at Assateague on Oct. 16 (Hoffman) and a female at Eastern Neck on Oct. 19 (Ellison +). On Nov. 7 Mozurkewich tallied the most Buffleheads with 104 at Lake Artemesia, 30 at Beltsville, and hundreds at Piscataway; other notable highs were 42 at Greenbrier on Nov. 5 (Weesner), 80 at Triadelphia on Nov. 7 (Holdridge, Solem), 54 at Fort McHenry on Nov. 8 (Bill Hubick), 120 at Point Lookout on Nov. 9 (Baron), 100 at Cambridge on Nov. 10 (Smith), 126 at Terrapin on Nov. 22 (Graff +), and 122 at Perryville on Nov. 24 (Starling). Mozurkewich also found single female **Common Goldeneyes** at Beltsville and Piscataway on Nov. 7. Two **Hooded Mergansers** at Cumberland on Sept. 19 (Kiddy) and one at Piney Run on Oct. 5 (Ringler) may have summered locally. Three female **Common Mergansers** on the Susquehanna River at Rock Run, HA on Oct. 19 (Cheicante) may have come from a nearby breeding site in Pennsylvania; other early migrants were one at Assateague on Nov. 10 (C. & D. Broderick), six flying over Blackwater on Nov. 10 (Smith), and a female at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 15 (Sussman). The first migrant **Ruddy Duck** was at Pickering Creek on Sept. 15 (Roslund); highs were 150 at Hurlock on Oct. 13 (Ringler, Ellis), 300 on the Potomac River opposite Aqualand Marina on Nov. 7 (Jett), 1,400 at Cliffs City Landing on Nov. 16 (Ellison), 200 at Reeds Creek, QA on Nov. 17 (Poet), and 250 at Piney Run on Nov. 21-27 (Ringler). On Aug. 4 Lynn & Linda Holley spotted 13 **Wild Turkeys** at Woodstock, HO.

*Loons, Grebes, Tubenoses, Gannet.* Sightings of **Red-throated Loons** were one at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), one at Eastern Neck on Nov. 9 and 22 (Ellison), four off Downs Park, AA on Nov. 22 (Smith), one at Sandy Point on Nov. 25 (Muisse), and one off Edgewood on Nov. 27 (Starling). Early **Common Loons** were one at Liberty Lake on Sept. 1 (Ringler, Ellis) and one flying over Rigby's Folly on Sept. 7 (H. Armistead); highs were 30 at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), 24 at Rigby's Folly on Oct. 13 (H. Armistead), 60 at Point Lookout on Nov. 9 (Baron), and 18 at Cliffs City Landing on Nov. 16 (Ellison, N. Martin). Notable numbers of **Pied-billed Grebes** were five at Greenbrier on Nov. 5 (Weesner) and 17 at Perryville on Nov. 24 (Starling). An early **Horned Grebe** was at Triadelphia on Oct. 23 with a record-early **Red-necked Grebe** (Holdridge, Solem). An **Eared Grebe** was at Chestertown from Sept. 26 through Nov. 16 (Ellison +) and one was at Hurlock on Oct. 13 (Ringler, Ellis). On an Aug. 16 pelagic trip some of the 39 **Cory's Shearwaters** and 170 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** were seen in Maryland waters (Guris +). During Hurricane Isabel on Sept. 19 three Wilson's Storm-Petrels and a **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** were reported on the Potomac River in DC (Bob Abrams) and a **Leach's Storm-Petrel** was reported over the Potomac at Marshall Hall, CH (Jett, Brewer). The first **Northern Gannet** of the season was off Ocean City on Oct. 13 (Ringler, Ellis).

*Pelicans, Cormorants.* **American White Pelicans** made a big splash this fall beginning with five birds seen in Talbot Co. They were first seen soaring near Easton on Oct. 9 (Herdon Steilkie) and the next day at Knapps Narrows, Tilghman (*vide* Reese). From Oct. 11-24 they were seen at Poplar Island by personnel working there (Brian Walls +) and by Chris Swarth visiting there on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Also in Talbot Co. two were seen on the Choptank River opposite Cambridge on Nov. 10 (Jane & Clark Reed). In Worcester Co. four (three adults and one immature) were seen near Taylors Landing on Nov. 15 (Holbrook, Brighton +), one was at George Island Landing the next day (Baer), 19 were on Newport Bay on Nov. 22 (Mike

Walsh) and 13 there on the 24<sup>th</sup> (Dyke), and nine were seen flying south over Sinepuxent Bay on Nov. 29 (Hanfman). Sightings of **Brown Pelicans** included four off Blackwalnut Point on Sept. 19 (G. Armistead), one flying north past Bay Ridge, AA on Sept. 19 (Davidson, Wierenga), two off Stevensville on Sept. 19 (Czaplak, Todd), six at Point Lookout on Nov. 16 (Henry Leskinen), and two at Ocean City on Nov. 29 (C. & D. Broderick, Hanfman). Interesting inland reports of **Double-crested Cormorants** were one at Lilypons on Aug. 3 (Shaffer), seven at Piney Reservoir on Sept. 19 (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox) and one there on Oct. 12 (Churchill); the latest were four at Liberty Lake on Nov. 25 (Ellis). On the Potomac several hundred were at Morgantown on Nov. 11 (Jett, Brewer); other notable reports were 600 at Assateague on Oct. 24 (Hoffman), 17 at Halethorpe Ponds, BA on Nov. 16 (Arnold), one at Perryville on Nov. 19 (Starling), and three at CBEC and eight off Terrapin on Nov. 22 (Graff +). Two **Great Cormorants** were at Ocean City on Nov. 18 (Hafner); remarkable inland was an immature at Liberty Lake on Nov. 19–25 (Ellis +) and one was far north in the Chesapeake on Nov. 26 when an immature was seen on Furnace Bay, Perryville (Starling).

*Herons, Ibises.* The only **American Bitterns** reported were single birds at UMBC on Sept. 23 (Arnold), UMCF on Oct. 4–11 (Ott +), Blackwater on Oct. 26 (H. Armistead +), and Lilypons on Nov. 15 (Marko). Notable numbers of **Great Egrets** were 11 at Kingman Lake on Sept. 19 (Peter Vankevich), 48 at Assateague on Oct. 16 (Hoffman), 44 at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 7 (Ringler), and 24 at Piscataway on Nov. 7 (Mozurkewich); late were one at Herrington Manor SP on Sept. 17 (Pope), one at Lake Elkhorn on Nov. 25 (Neri), one at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Nov. 26 (Bowen), one near North Linthicum, AA on Nov. 27 (Arnold), and two at Assateague on Nov. 28 (Muisse, Fullerton). Five **Snowy Egrets** at Lake Kittamaquundi on Aug. 6 (Coskren) were the most inland; higher numbers were 44 at Poplar Island on Sept. 8 (Reese) and 38 at Assateague on Sept. 24 (Hoffman), and the latest were six at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 7 (Ringler) and one at Blackwater on Nov. 23 (H. Armistead +). Interesting reports of **Little Blue Herons** were one near Bethlehem, CN on Aug. 16 (Holbrook, Brighton), an adult at Bethel WMA on Sept. 21 (Hubbell), and an immature at West Ocean City on Nov. 28 (Muisse, Fullerton). Also at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 7 were 10 **Tricolored Herons** (Ringler). The most **Cattle Egrets** were seen in Kent Co. on Sept. 21 with about 75 near Reeses Corner and 24 flying west from Tolchester (Ellison +); the farthest north were eight near Bethel WMA on Sept. 21 (Hubbell); the latest were four near Carmichael, QA on Nov. 2 (Poet +), two at Blackwater on Nov. 23 (H. Armistead +), and one at Nanticoke on Nov. 24 (C. & D. Broderick). The latest **Green Heron** this fall was in southwest Baltimore on Oct. 24 (Wilkinson). Interesting **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were an adult at Pomonkey Creek on Sept. 2 (John & Carrie Staples), an immature at Wilde Lake on Oct. 13 (Zeichner), and five immatures at Blackwater on Nov. 10 (Smith). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** included an adult at Lilypons on Aug. 3 (Shaffer), one at Ewell, SO on Aug. 13 (H. Armistead), one at Fran Uhler NA on Aug. 28 (Fallon), and an immature at Lake Roland on Sept. 3 (Tomas Dahlen). Interesting reports of **Glossy Ibis** were one at Ridgely on Aug. 12 (Hafner, Baer), two at Salisbury on Aug. 24 (Holbrook, Brighton), one at Stevensville on Sept. 19 (Czaplak, Todd), one at Blackwater on Sept. 20 (H. Armistead, Sparks), and 12 at Assateague on Sept. 24 (Hoffman).

*Diurnal Raptors.* Late **Ospreys** were one at Oakland, GA on Oct. 29 (Pope), one at Piney Run on Nov. 15 (Ringler), one at Bestpitch, DO on Nov. 16 (H. Armistead +), one at Sandy Point on Nov. 22 (Ringler), and two at Eastern Neck on Nov. 22 (Ellison +). A **Mississippi Kite** was seen near Loyola College in Baltimore on Sept. 20 (Brendan Klick). Three **Bald Eagles** were at inland Liberty Lake on Nov. 20 (Ringler). Early **Northern Harriers** were one at UMCF on Aug. 23 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem) and one at Mason Dixon Farm on Sept. 1

TABLE 1. MIGRANT RAPTORS, FALL 2003  
WASHINGTON MONUMENT STATE PARK  
Compiled by Paul Newton

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BIG DAYS
Osprey	8/30	10/31	200	30 on 9/27, 14 on 10/5 & 10/7
Bald Eagle	8/30	11/20	57	4 on six dates
Northern Harrier	8/30	12/6	101	10 on 10/11, 9 on 10/10 & 10/19
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8/30	11/23	976	110 on 10/7, 57 on 10/9
Cooper's Hawk	8/23	11/17	148	18 on 10/5, 14 on 10/10 & 10/11
Northern Goshawk	9/27	10/24	4	also 1 on 10/5 & 10/11
Red-shouldered Hawk	8/23	12/6	47	7 on 10/30 & 11/8
Broad-winged Hawk	8/23	10/11	2,356	500 on 9/23, 475 on 9/20
Red-tailed Hawk	9/5	12/7	661	117 on 11/8, 95 on 11/10
Golden Eagle	10/25	11/22	13	3 on 11/14
American Kestrel	9/10	11/2	81	13 on 10/5
Merlin	8/23	10/23	20	5 on 10/10, 4 on 10/9
Peregrine Falcon	9/18	10/12	35	9 on 10/5, 7 on 10/10
Unidentified Raptors			117	
TOTAL	8/23	12/7	4,816	533 on 9/23, 514 on 9/20

413.75 hours of observation on 72 days.

(Ringler); 12 migrants were counted at Eastern Neck on Oct. 12 (Ellison +). Early migrant **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were one at Chino Farms on Aug. 25 (Gruber) and one at Liberty Watershed, CL on Sept. 1 (Ringler, Ellis). Ellison and party tallied 21 Sharp-shins and 21 **Cooper's Hawks** migrating past Eastern Neck on Oct. 12. Reports of **Northern Goshawks** away from the hawk watches were an adult at Backbone Mountain, GA on Oct. 5 (Cox), one flying over Chino Farms on Oct. 20 and two flying over there on Nov. 10 (Gruber), an immature at Cromwell Valley Park on Nov. 2 (Ringler), and an immature at Piney Run on Nov. 27 (Ringler, Ellis, Robin Todd). Other interesting migrants were two **Red-shouldered Hawks** at Eastern Neck on Nov. 22 (Ellison +), 1,000 **Broad-winged Hawks** at Rockville on Sept. 17 (O'Brien), 600 at Ellicott City on Sept. 21 (Ott), 666 at Cromwell Valley Park on Sept. 21 (Jim Meyers +), 67 at Hooper Island on Oct. 10 (Willey), and two at Eastern Neck on Oct. 12 (Ellison +), a light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** near Herrington Manor SP on Nov. 1 (Pope), and another light morph at Kenilworth Park on Nov. 9 (Hilton). A near-adult **Golden Eagle** at Truitts Landing on Sept. 8 (C. & D. Broderick) was extraordinary; more timely were an adult at UMCF on Nov. 1 (Ott +), an immature at Columbia on Nov. 2 (Coskren), an immature flying over Chino Farms on Nov. 4 (Gruber), a sub-adult near Tolchester on Nov. 9 (Ellison), a record 23 at Town Hill on Nov. 13 (Kiddy) and seven there the next day (Churchill), and an immature at Manchester, CL on Nov. 16 (Mark Scarff). The first **Merlins** of the season were one at East Potomac Park on Aug. 31 (where three were seen on Oct. 26--Pisano), three at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), one at Pickering Creek on Sept. 7 (Ellison +) and one at Oak Grove on Sept. 7 (Lovelace); other reports of three birds were at Rigby's Folly on Sept. 19 (H. Armistead, Baughman) and Lake Roland on Oct. 14 (E. Kirschbaum +); late migrants

were one at Morgan Run on Oct. 28 (Powell, Sollers), one at Western Regional Park on Oct. 31 (Cullison), one at Bolton Hill, BC on Nov. 17 (Bryce Butler), and one at Ocean City on Nov. 30 (Jett, Brewer). Notable **Peregrine Falcons** were single birds at Central Sod Farms on Aug. 17 (Brighton) and Sept. 4 (Ellison), Brighton Dam on Sept. 19 (Holbrook), Allens Fresh on Sept. 19 (Jett, Brewer), Poplar Island on Sept. 24 (Reese), UMCF on Oct. 4 (Ott +), Town Hill on Oct. 11 (Churchill +), Liberty Lake on Nov. 20-21 (Ringler), and Edgewood on Nov. 21 (Starling).

*Rallids, Plovers, Stilts, Avocets.* A **Sora** continued to be heard at Hughes Hollow through Aug. 16 (Sussman); one was at UMCF on Aug. 28 and Oct. 4 (Ott, Solem +). Two **Common Moorhens** were at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 14 (Hafner, Burchett, Powell) and Oct. 12 (Ringler, Ellis), one was at Jug Bay on Oct. 12 (Ripley), and an immature was at Hurlock on Oct. 19 (Brighton). Three **American Coots** at Piney Run on Sept. 19 (Ringler) were early; highs were 125 at Perryville on Nov. 24 (Starling) and 200 at Piney Run on Nov. 27 (Ringler). Interesting reports of **Black-bellied Plovers** were eight near Blackwater on Aug. 31 (G. Armistead, Russo), one at Central Sod Farms on Sept. 6 (Poet), one flying over UMCF on Sept. 14 (Ott, Solem), one at Salisbury on Sept. 19 (Dyke), three flying past Tolchester on Sept. 19 (Ellison), 16 at Poplar Island on Oct. 31 (Reese), one heard calling at Wye Island on

## TABLE 2. MIGRANT VULTURES & DIURNAL RAPTORS, FALL 2003 TURKEY POINT, ELK NECK STATE PARK, CECIL CO.

Compiled by Dave Kimball

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BIG DAYS
Black Vulture	9/16	11/22	76	28 on 11/2, 10 on 9/16
Turkey Vulture	9/6	11/27	798	144 on 11/9, 62 on 11/10
Osprey	9/6	11/4	105	12 on 10/9, 8 on 9/25
Bald Eagle	9/6	11/25	191	50 on 10/15, 14 on 9/6
Northern Harrier	9/6	11/21	45	5 on 9/26
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9/6	11/26	1,677	140 on 10/15, 110 on 10/9
Cooper's Hawk	9/11	11/20	245	23 on 11/2, 22 on 9/26
Northern Goshawk	10/31		1	
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/28	11/27	284	61 on 11/8 & 11/9, 57 on 11/2
Broad-winged Hawk	9/9	10/25	285	70 on 9/17, 68 on 9/26
Red-tailed Hawk	9/6	11/27	673	185 on 11/8, 115 on 11/2
Rough-legged Hawk	11/1	11/5	2	
Golden Eagle	10/20	11/8	2	
American Kestrel	9/9	11/15	77	13 on 9/25, 10 on 9/21
Merlin	9/6	11/8	40	7 on 10/15, 3 on 10/2
Peregrine Falcon	9/14	11/14	19	2 on 10/15, 10/16 & 11/2
Unidentified Raptors			141	
TOTAL	9/6	11/27	4,661	395 on 11/8, 317 on 11/9

279.5 hours of observation on 70 days.

Nov. 2 (Poet +), and eight at Blackwater on Nov. 23 (H. Armistead +). Reports of **American Golden-Plovers** were one at Central Sod Farms on Aug. 23 (Holbrook, Brighton), four near Blackwater on Aug. 31 (G. Armistead, Russo), two at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), two at Poplar Island on Sept. 8 (Reese), one at Rocky Gap on Sept. 19 (Cox, Kiddy, Churchill), 21 at Hurlock on Sept. 21 (H. Armistead, Sparks), one at Sherwood on Sept. 21 (Crabtree), two near Easton on Sept. 26 (Roslund), six near Lilypons on Sept. 29 (Powell), and four at Blackwater on Oct. 26 (H. Armistead +). High counts of **Semipalmated Plovers** were 107 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), 125 at Poplar Island on Sept. 8 (Reese), and 20 at Sherwood on Sept. 19 (G. Armistead). Sightings of **Piping Plovers** from Eagles Nest were four on Sept. 27 (Hafner, Stasz) and one on Nov. 7 (Hafner). Flocks of **Killdeer** included 140 near Blackwater on Aug. 31 (G. Armistead, Russo), 55 at Central Sod Farms on Sept. 4 (Ellison), and 40 at UMCF on Oct. 11 (Nancy Magnusson, Holdridge, Solem). Five **Black-necked Stilts** south of Hurlock on Aug. 29-30 (Brighton +) were a surprise. The only **American Avocets** of the season were two at Merkle on Aug. 24 (Al Guarente), 26 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), and one at Pickering Creek on Sept. 15 (Roslund, Charles Hopkins).

*Sandpipers.* Late **Greater Yellowlegs** were one at Hance Point, CE on Nov. 24 (Starling) and one at Assateague on Nov. 28 (Muisse, Fullerton). Highs for **Lesser Yellowlegs** were 60 at Central Sod Farms on Sept. 4 (Ellison) and 25 at Pickering Creek on Sept. 7 (Ellison +); late was one at Eastern Neck on Dec. 3 (Ellison +). An exceptionally late **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 15 (Sussman). Two eastern **Willetts** were at Irish Grove on Aug. 24 (Holbrook, Brighton) and one western Willet was at Eagles Nest on Sept. 27 (Hafner, Stasz); a late bird was at George Island Landing on Nov. 8 (Baer, Powell). The high for **Spotted Sandpipers** was 18 at Flag Ponds on Aug. 13 (Bell, Ripley); late were one there on Oct. 9 (Ripley), one at Fort McHenry on Oct. 12 (Peters +), one at Hurlock on Nov. 7 (Hafner), one at Assateague on Nov. 8-9 (Hafner +), and one at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 9 (Sussman). The only reports of **Upland Sandpipers** were one near Lilypons on Aug. 3 (Shaffer), one at Central Sod Farms on Aug. 12 (Hafner, Baer), three at the Salisbury Airport on Aug. 16 (Holbrook, Brighton), one near Blackwater on Aug. 31 (G. Armistead, Russo), and two at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +). Reports of **Whimbrels** were mostly from Assateague with eight there on Aug. 2 and a high of 18 on Aug. 23 (N. & F. Saunders) and a late bird on Sept. 24 (Hoffman); two were at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +). A **Long-billed Curlew** was reported near Elkton on Aug. 31 (Watson). A very late **Hudsonian Godwit** was at Blackwater on Nov. 16 (H. Armistead +) and Dec. 3 (Lyn & Skip Nelson). Notable **Ruddy Turnstones** were 22 at Poplar Island on Sept. 8 (Reese) and 11 flying past Damsite, KE on Sept. 19 (Ellison +). Reports of **Red Knots** were six at Assateague on Aug. 2 (N. & F. Saunders), three at Hart-Miller on Aug. 30 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook), one at Terrapin on Sept. 7 (Mackiernan, Cooper), four at Eagles Nest on Sept. 27 (Hafner, Stasz), and one at Assateague on Nov. 8 (Pisano, Craig Turner). High counts of **Sanderlings** were 40 at Flag Ponds on Aug. 13 (Bell, Ripley), 1,000 at Assateague on Aug. 23 (N. & F. Saunders), and 154 at Poplar Island on Oct. 31 (Reese); others of note were seen on Sept. 19: one at Aqualand Marina (Jett, Brewer), 15 flying past Stevensville (Czaplak, Todd), and one at Rocky Gap (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox). On Sept. 8 Reese counted 638 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at Poplar Island. Reports of **Western Sandpipers** were one at Elliott Island on Aug. 16 (Holbrook, Brighton), seven near Blackwater on Aug. 31 (G. Armistead, Russo), 75 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), three at Pickering Creek on Sept. 7 (Ellison +), six at Poplar Island on Sept. 8 (Reese), two at Rocky Gap on Sept. 19 (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox), and eight at Hurlock on Sept. 28 (Brighton). On Sept. 8 Reese counted 84 **Least Sandpipers** at Poplar Island; a late bird was at Blackwater on Nov. 23 (Ellison). Reports of **White-rumped Sandpipers** were 64 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), one at Pickering Creek on Sept. 7 (Ellison +), three at Sherwood on Sept. 19

(G. Armistead), two at North Branch on Sept. 19 (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox), one near Easton on Sept. 26–28 (Roslund +), and one at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +). One **Baird's Sandpiper** at North Branch on Aug. 17 increased to three on the 24<sup>th</sup> (Churchill); others were 24 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 30 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook), one near Blackwater on Aug. 31 (G. Armistead, Russo), and three at Hurlock on Sept. 3 (C. & D. Broderick). Highs for **Pectoral Sandpipers** were 32 near Blackwater on Aug. 31 (G. Armistead, Russo), 20 at Central Sod Farms on Sept. 4 (Ellison), and 59 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +). A **Purple Sandpiper** at North Beach on Sept. 19 (Hafner, Stasz, Hoffman) was extraordinary as were 30 at Poplar Island on the expected date of Nov. 18 (Reese). Local highs for **Dunlin** were 14 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 19 (Ellison +), 498 at Poplar Island on Oct. 31 (Reese), and 145 at Elliott Island on Nov. 23 (H. Armistead). Reports of **Stilt Sandpipers** were three at North Branch on Sept. 1 (Churchill), five at Poplar Island on Sept. 8 (Reese), and 28 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +). The only **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** of the season were four at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), one at Central Sod Farms on Sept. 6–8 (Poet +), two at Ridgely on Sept. 8 (Joe Sedransk), five at Poplar Island on Sept. 8 (Reese), and one at Salisbury on Sept. 19 (Dyke). A female **Ruff** was at Assateague on Sept. 27 (Stasz, Hafner). Reports of **Short-billed Dowitchers** included one at Kingman Lake on Aug. 2 (Hubbell), one at Central Sod Farms on Aug. 5 (Poet) and Sept. 4 (Ellison), one at Point Lookout on Aug. 23 (Mozurkewich), 97 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), 95 at Poplar Island on Sept. 8 (Reese), and one at Salisbury on Sept. 19 (Dyke). The only **Long-billed Dowitchers** were two at Elliott Island on Aug. 23 (Holbrook, Brighton), two at Hart-Miller on Aug. 30 (Hafner, Stasz, Holbrook), one which flew over calling at UMCF on Sept. 28 (Ott, Holdridge), two at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), and one at Elliott Island on Oct. 19 (Brighton). An unidentified dowitcher near Lisbon, HO on Oct. 28 (Powell) was in the best time period for a Long-bill. Early **Wilson's Snipe** were one in western Montgomery Co. on Aug. 17 (Czaplak), and one near Blackwater on Aug. 31 (G. Armistead, Russo); highs were 50 at Lilypons on Nov. 2 (Carroll, Sanford) and 22 at New Windsor, CL on Nov. 16 (Ringler). Migrant **American Woodcock** included three at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 9–18 (Pope) and in Howard Co. one at David Force WMA on Oct. 25 (Wilkinson) and one at Centennial on Nov. 20 (Glenn Austin). Single **Wilson's Phalaropes** were at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +) and Chestertown on Sept. 26–28 (Ellison +). A juvenile **Red-necked Phalarope** flew past Stevensville on Sept. 19 (Czaplak, Todd) and another juvenile was at Great Oak Pond on Sept. 21 (Ellison +). A **Red Phalarope** at Rocky Gap on Sept. 19 (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox) was one of the rewards of Hurricane Isabel.

*Jaegers, Gulls, Terns, Skimmers.* An adult **Pomarine Jaeger** was seen flying past Stevensville on Sept. 19 (Czaplak, Todd) and an immature **Parasitic Jaeger** was seen at Chesapeake City, CE the same day (Gary Griffith). Another Parasitic Jaeger was seen flying over Turkey Point on Sept. 24 (Starling) and single immatures were seen at Ocean City on Nov. 28 (Muisse, Fullerton) and Nov. 29 (Hanfman). More surprising was the intermediate morph immature **Long-tailed Jaeger** off Blackwalnut Point on Sept. 19 (G. Armistead). Inland **Laughing Gulls** were four flying over Ashton on Aug. 17 (Sussman), 11 flying over Ellicott City on Aug. 17 followed by one on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and two on Sept. 17 (Ott), one at Rocky Gap (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox) plus four at Cumberland (Kiddy) on Sept. 19, and one at Loch Raven on Nov. 30 (Terry). Concentrations of Laughing Gulls were 2,500 on the Anacostia River, DC on Sept. 28 (Pisano) and 1,000 on the Gunpowder River, HA on Nov. 17 (Starling). A first-winter **Franklin's Gull** was at Oxon Cove, PG on Nov. 1 (Mozurkewich, Fullerton) and an adult was at Back River on Nov. 30 (Lev). A **Bonaparte's Gull** at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +) was unseasonable; highs were 110 at Ocean City on Nov. 8 (Ringler), 90 at Great Oak Pond on Nov. 14 (Ellison), and 100 at Back River on Nov. 30 (Lev). On Sept. 16 Peters reported a **Black-tailed Gull** in flight at Fort McHenry. The first **Lesser Black-**

**backed Gull** of the season was at Eastern Neck on Sept. 21 (Ellison, N. Martin) followed by three adults at Assateague on Sept. 27 (Hafner, Stasz), an adult at Carderock, MD on Oct. 9 (Czaplak), and an adult at Hains Point on Nov. 8 (Hilton). On Aug. 30 Jett and Brewer found 150 **Great Black-backed Gulls** at Morgantown. The **Kelp Gull** was seen periodically through the season at Sandgates, SM (Bell, Kostenko +). A **Black-legged Kittiwake** was seen at Ocean City on Nov. 9 (Hafner +). The last **Gull-billed Tern** of the year was at Elliott Island on Aug. 16 (Holbrook, Brighton). Late inland were two **Caspian Terns** at Brighton Dam on Sept. 19 (Holbrook +) and two at Lake Kittamaquidi on Sept. 21 (Tammy Schwaab); concentrations of Caspians were 384 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), 76 at Chestertown and 35 at Huntingfield, KE on Sept. 20 (Ellison, N. Martin), and 55 at Blackwater on Sept. 21 (H. Armistead +) with a late bird flying over Waldorf on Oct. 24 (Jett). The high count of **Royal Terns** in the Chesapeake Bay region was 41 off Lucy Point, TA on Sept. 19 (H. Armistead, Baughman). Numbers of **Sandwich Terns** at Assateague ranged from 15 on Aug. 2 (N. & F. Saunders) to 21 on Sept. 27 (Hafner, Stasz); others were two at Ocean City on Aug. 14 (Hafner, Burchett, Powell), an adult off Lucy Point, TA on Sept. 19 (H. Armistead, Baughman), and one on Sept. 19 flying south past North Beach where a **Roseate Tern** was seen the same day (Stasz, Hafner, Hoffman). Interesting sightings of **Common Terns** were 25 at Tolchester plus five at Rock Hall on Sept. 18 (Ellison, N. Martin), two at Little Seneca Lake on Sept. 19 (Czaplak, Todd), six at North Branch on Sept. 19 (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox), and two late birds at Eastern Neck on Oct. 12 (Ellison +). An immature **Arctic Tern** was seen flying south past North Beach on Sept. 19 (Hafner). Inland **Forster's Terns** were four at Brighton Dam on Sept. 4 (Solem), three at Liberty Lake on Sept. 19 (Ringler), and eight at Rocky Gap plus one at North Branch on Sept. 19 (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox). High counts of Forster's Terns were 320 at Tolchester plus 120 at Rock Hall on Sept. 18 (Ellison, N. Martin), 217 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 12 (Ellison +), and 200 at Point Lookout on Nov. 9 (Baron); late were eight at Mattawoman NEA on Nov. 16 (Nielsen), three at Cliffs City Landing on Nov. 16 (Ellison, N. Martin), one at Bushwood Wharf, SM on Nov. 16 (Nielsen), 10 at CBEC and seven at Terrapin on Nov. 22 (Graff +), and four at Perryville on Nov. 24 (Starling). The last **Least Terns** of the season were four at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +). Joining the fallout of Hurricane Isabel birds were 12 **Bridled Terns** and two **Sooty Terns** off Elms Beach on Sept. 19 (Bell, Kostenko); other Sooty Terns that day were an adult off Stevensville (Czaplak, Todd) and a juvenile off Tolchester (Ellison). The only inland report of **Black Terns** was of one at Rocky Gap and one at North Branch on Sept. 19 (Kiddy, Churchill, Cox); the latest were eight over Chesapeake Bay near Rock Hall on Sept. 21 (Ellison +). **Black Skimmers** were more numerous than usual in Chesapeake Bay mostly due to Hurricane Isabel. One adult skimmer was at Cove Point, CT on Aug. 17 (Hamilton), two at Aqualand Marina on Sept. 19 (Jett, Brewer), one flying south at Sandy Point on Sept. 19 (Davidson, Wierenga), one on the Potomac River, DC on Sept. 19 (Bob Abrams), two, an adult and an immature, at Eastern Neck on Sept. 20 (Ellison, N. Martin), and most remarkable of all a sub-adult that reached the Piedmont at Hickory, HA on Sept. 20 (Futral +); two late birds were at Ocean City on Nov. 29 (C. & D. Broderick).

*Dove, Cuckoos, Owls, Nighthawks.* An aberrant **Mourning Dove** with large white forewing patches was at UMCF on Aug. 28 (Ott, Solem). The only reports of **Black-billed Cuckoos** were single birds at Meadowside Nature Center, MD on Aug. 30 (Sussman), Waldorf on Aug. 30 (Jett), Cromwell Valley Park on Sept. 12 (Georgia McDonald), and Seneca Creek SP on Oct. 12 (A. Martin). Late **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were one at Jug Bay on Oct. 12 (Ripley) and one at Camp Merrick, CH on Oct. 18 (Jett, Brewer). Two **Long-eared Owls** were heard near Newark, WO on Nov. 8 (Brighton, Holbrook). Reports of **Short-eared Owls** were two at Poplar Island on Nov. 18 (Reese), four at Assateague on Nov. 22 (Holbrook,



Brighton), three at Elliott Island on Nov. 23 (H. Armistead), and one at Milltown Landing WMA on Nov. 23 (Mozurkewich +). Huy banded his first **Northern Saw-whet Owls** of the season on Oct. 18 at Lambs Knoll, and recovered one that had been banded on Oct. 20, 2002 in Pennsylvania. **Common Nighthawks** were well-reported this season beginning with one at Lilypons on Aug. 14 (Marko); most passed through the state in late August with highs of 25 at Hancock, WA on Aug. 26 (Weesner), 40 at Wards Chapel, BA on Aug. 27 (Ringler), 79 at Cloverly, MO on Aug. 27 (Wilkerson), 26 at Monrovia, FR on Aug. 27 (Joe McDaniel), 26 at Darnestown on Aug. 27 (Simonson), 32 at Edgewood on Aug. 31 (Starling), 30 at Seneca Creek SP on Sept. 3 (Powell), and 60 in Northwest DC on Sept. 3 (Waanders); a late bird was at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 6 (Mackiernan, Cooper).

*Swifts, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers.* Notable concentrations of **Chimney Swifts** were 1,000 at Edgewood on Aug. 31 (Starling) and a peak of 7,403 at Hampden, BC on Sept. 5 (Carol Schreter +). Les Eastman was getting at least 25 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** at his Havre de Grace feeders on Aug. 22; single late birds were at Waldorf on Oct. 6 (Jett), Salisbury on Oct. 10 (Connie Humphreys), and Dunloggin, HO on Oct. 14 (Scott Geist). A female **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was an extraordinary find on the Mall in DC at the Mary Ripley Garden of the Smithsonian on Nov. 17 where it remained into December (Laura Farron +). It was banded on Dec. 4 by Mary Gustafson for positive identification. Two **Rufous Hummingbirds** appeared at a feeder in Georgetown, DC on Nov. 13 and remained into December (Chris Lidy +); both were immature females banded on Dec. 1 by Gustafson. An immature male appeared at a feeder near Foxville, FR in late August, was banded by Scott Weidensaul on Nov. 17, and remained into the winter (Sara & Don Hurley +); an immature female was at Ednor, MO on Oct. 24 through Dec. 1 (Kathy Tinus) and banded on Nov. 25 by Mary Gustafson. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** made quite a splash this fall with many migrants sighted. Among the more interesting reports were one at North Tract PRR on Sept. 7 (Derek Richardson), one at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 16, two there on the 24<sup>th</sup> (Weesner), an immature at Chino Farms on Sept. 23 (Gruber), an adult at Kings Landing Park, CT on Oct. 8 (Ripley), and two immatures at Eastern Neck on Nov. 22 (Ellison, Mann). The migration of **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** is little known but Hoffman found five on Assateague on Oct. 16 that were probably migrants. The first **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** of the season was at MPEA on Sept. 17 (Ott). High counts of migrating **Northern Flickers** were 25 at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 3 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 60 at Terrapin on Oct. 7 (Hafner), and 100 at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +); an intergrade yellow-/red-shafted flicker was banded and photographed at Chino Farms on Oct. 31 (Gruber).

*Flycatchers.* **Olive-sided Flycatcher** sightings were all of single birds: Blockhouse Point, MO on Aug. 16 (Czaplak), Hughes Hollow on Aug. 16 (Sussman), Chino Farms on Aug. 25 (Gruber), Creswell, HA on Aug. 27 (Hafner), Ellicott City on Aug. 27-28 (Ott), Assateague on Aug. 28 (Hafner), Lock 56 of the C&O Canal near Pearre, WA on Sept. 2 (Ringler), Rock Creek Park on Sept. 6 (Mackiernan, Cooper), Cromwell Valley Park on Sept. 6 (Lev), Finzel Swamp on Sept. 8 (Churchill), and Morgan Run NEA on Sept. 14 (Ringler +). On Oct. 4 Stasz found a calling **Western Wood-Pewee** on Assateague. The high for **Eastern Wood-Pewees** was 12 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 6 (Mackiernan, Cooper); a late bird was at Terrapin on Oct. 10 (Poet). The first **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** of the fall were one at Upper Marlboro on Aug. 22 (Shaffer) and one in Caroline Co. on Aug. 23 (Holbrook, Brighton); late birds were one banded at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 3 (Skipper, Pope) and one at Font Hill, HO on Oct. 4 (Kevin Heffernan, Karen Darcy). A late **Acadian Flycatcher** was at Jefferson Patterson Park on Sept. 20 (Kluza, Rhonda Kranz). A late **Willow Flycatcher** was at Terrapin on Sept. 11 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Record late was a **Trail's Flycatcher** banded at Jug Bay

on Oct. 28 (Bystrak). The earliest **Least Flycatcher** reported was at Assateague on Aug. 28 (Hafner); the latest was at Layhill on Oct. 4 (Sussman). A **Dusky Flycatcher** seen calling at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 3 (Mackiernan, Cooper) will be reviewed by the records committee. The high for **Eastern Phoebe**s was eight at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 29-30 (Mackiernan, Cooper); one was lingering at Hughes Hollow on Nov. 30 (A. Martin). Late **Great Crested Flycatchers** were one at Turkey Point on Sept. 20 (Holmes +), one at Upper Watts Branch Park on Sept. 21 (O'Brien), and one at Rockburn on Sept. 25 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem). The only **Western Kingbird** of the fall was at West, SO on Oct. 12 (Ringler, Ellis). High counts of **Eastern Kingbirds** were 120 at Chino Farms on Aug. 19 (Gruber), 20 at Allens Fresh on Aug. 30 (Jett, Brewer), and 200 at Turkey Point on Aug. 31 (Starling); late were one at Breeze Point, CH on Sept. 20 (Jett, Brewer) and one at Elliott Island on Sept. 21 (H. Armistead, Sparks).

*Shrikes, Vireos.* The only **Loggerhead Shrike** of the season was on Assateague on Aug. 29 (C. & D. Broderick). An early immature **Northern Shrike** was at Ocean City on Nov. 9 (Hoffman +). Late **White-eyed Vireos** were one at Towson, BA on Oct. 31 (Lev, Larkin) and one on Kent Island on Nov. 1 (Crabtree). Late **Yellow-throated Vireos** were one at Upper Watts Branch Park on Sept. 24 (O'Brien), one at Turkey Point on Sept. 24 (Starling), one at West Friendship, HO on Oct. 7 (Cullison), and an extraordinary bird at Lilypons on Nov. 9 (C. Harris). The first **Blue-headed Vireo** of the season was at Turkey Point on Sept. 20 (Starling), one bird of the subspecies *alticola* was at Upper Watts Branch Park on Sept. 24 (O'Brien), five were at Black Hill on Oct. 16 (Alexander), four were at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 18 (Hoffman +), at least three were at Terrapin on Oct. 18 (Holbrook, Brighton), one was at Morgan Run NEA on Oct. 28 (Powell, Sollers), and one was near Queenstown on Nov. 9 (Crabtree +). Migrant **Warbling Vireos** included one at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 1 and one at Terrapin on Sept. 7 (both by Mackiernan, Cooper); late were one heard at Finksburg, CL on Sept. 20 (Ringler) and one at Cromwell Valley Park on Sept. 21 (Graff). Reports of **Philadelphia Vireos** included an exceptionally early one at Assateague on Aug. 28 (Hafner) and another there on Sept. 5 (C. & D. Broderick), two at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 24 and a late one there on Oct. 6 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and another late bird at Turkey Point on Oct. 6 (Starling). The high for **Red-eyed Vireos** was 30 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 1 and 6 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and the latest were one at Assateague on Oct. 16 (Hoffman) and one at Kenilworth Park on Oct. 19 (Hilton).

*Corvids, Swallows, Nuthatches.* On Oct. 6 Starling estimated 10,000 **Blue Jays** at Turkey Point. There were about 400 **Fish Crows** at Golden Hill, DO on Nov. 16 (H. Armistead +). Reports of **Common Ravens** included one south of Middletown, FR on Aug. 14 (Huy), two at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 18 (Hoffman +), and three at Lambs Knoll on Oct. 19 (Huy). The latest **Purple Martins** of the year were two at Tolchester on Sept. 18 (Ellison, N. Martin). The high for **Tree Swallows** was 3,000 at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +); the latest were 20 at Swan Harbor Farm on Oct. 26 (Cheicante). A high of 200 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** was at Chino Farms on Aug. 18 (Gruber); late birds were two at Terrapin on Oct. 7 (Hafner), one at Fort McHenry on Oct. 12 (Peters +), and one at Eastern Neck on Oct. 19 (Ellison +). The high for **Bank Swallows** was 100 at Chino Farms on Aug. 18 (Gruber) and the latest was one at New Windsor, CL on Oct. 4 (Ringler). Migrant **Cliff Swallows** were one at Great Oak Pond on Aug. 30 (Ellison) and one at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +). An apparent Caribbean subspecies of **Cave Swallow** was videotaped at New Windsor, CL on Oct. 4-5 (Ringler, Ellis, Schwarz). A late **Barn Swallow** was at Hurlock on Oct. 19 (Brighton). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** appeared throughout the state in small numbers with the most being five at Assateague on Oct. 24 (Hoffman). A **Brown-headed Nuthatch** at East-

ern Neck on Oct. 19 (Ellison +) was north of the known breeding range; one at Wye Island on Nov. 2 (Poet) was close to the known northern limit.

*Creepers, Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers.* A **Brown Creeper** at Worthington, HO on Sept. 1 (Elayne Metter) was probably not a migrant. The peak for **House Wrens** was 20 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 30 (Mackiernan, Cooper); late birds were one at Beltsville on Nov. 7 (Mozurkewich) and one at Broad Neck Landing, KE on Nov. 16 (Ellison, N. Martin). The only **Sedge Wren** reported was at Tanyard on Oct. 19 (Brighton). A **Marsh Wren** at UMCF on Sept. 6–28 (Ott +) may have nested locally. Peak counts of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were 30 at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +) and 30 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 19 (Ellison +). Highs for **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were 30 at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 17 (Cooper) and 24 at Eastern Neck on Oct. 19 (Ellison +). Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** at CBEC on Aug. 3 (Graff) were early migrants but the peak of migration was 20 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 6 (Mackiernan, Cooper) with single late birds at Western Regional Park on Oct. 1 (Ott, Solem), Layhill on Oct. 5 (Sussman +), and Jefferson Patterson Park on Oct. 16 (Bell).

*Thrushes, Mimids, Pipits.* On Nov. 8 Hafner spotted a **Mountain Bluebird** on Assateague to be reviewed by the records committee. Listening before dawn at Rigby's Folly on Sept. 6 Harry Armistead heard 93 **Veeries** flying over and another 70 the next morning. The first **Gray-cheeked Thrush** of the season was at Rockburn on Sept. 20 (Ott, Holdridge), four were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 30 and three there on Oct. 7 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and the latest were four heard flying over Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +) and one banded at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 17 (Skipper, Pope). Single **Bicknell's Thrushes** were banded at Chino Farms on Sept. 22 and 29 (Gruber); one was watched through a telescope at CBEC on Oct. 26 (Graff, Crabtree +). An early **Swainson's Thrush** was at Wheaton, MO on Aug. 27 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 40 were heard flying over Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), and late birds were one at California, SM on Oct. 14 (Bell, Kostenko), one banded at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 16 (Skipper, Pope), and one at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 17 (Cooper). The first **Hermit Thrushes** of the season were two at Town Hill on Oct. 11 (Churchill +). About 600 **American Robins** were flying over Eldersburg, CL on Nov. 1 (Ringle). Hoffman tallied 110 **Gray Catbirds** at Assateague on Sept. 24 and 40 were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 30 (Mackiernan, Cooper); five catbirds and two **Brown Thrashers** at Milltown Landing WMA on Nov. 23 (Mozurkewich +) may have been attempting to winter there. Another late thrasher was at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Nov. 26 (Bowen). Flocks of **American Pipits** included 40 at Swan Harbor Farm on Oct. 26 (Cheicante), 60 at Chino Farms on Nov. 5 (Gruber), 45 near Blackwater on Nov. 16 (H. Armistead +), and 40 at UMCF on Nov. 20 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem).

*Vermivora Warblers, Parulas.* The first migrant **Blue-winged Warbler** was noted at Point Lookout on Aug. 23 (Mozurkewich), 10 were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 1 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and the last one of the year was banded at Mt. Nebo on Sept. 30 (Skipper, Pope). The only reports of **Golden-winged Warblers** were one at Cylburn on Aug. 31 (Sanford +), one at Little Bennett on Sept. 3 (Powell), a male at Jug Bay on Sept. 6 (Jett), and one at Terrapin on Sept. 7 (Perry). One of each of the hybrids was seen this year: a **Brewster's Warbler** at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 1 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and a **Lawrence's Warbler** at Upper Watts Branch Park the same day (O'Brien). One **Tennessee Warbler** was at Wheaton, MO on Aug. 27 (Mackiernan, Cooper), a high of eight was at Finzel on Sept. 8 (Churchill), and one was at Jefferson Patterson Park on Oct. 16 (Bell). There were numerous reports of **Orange-crowned Warblers** including one at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 24 (Mackiernan, Cooper), two at Terrapin on Oct. 7 (Hafner), one at Finzel on Oct. 12 (Churchill), one banded at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 28 (Skipper, Pope), one at Point Lookout on Nov. 7 (Bell), and one at Assateague

on Nov. 18 (Hafner) being the most notable. The first **Nashville Warbler** was at Wheaton, MO on Aug. 27 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and late birds were two at Jefferson Patterson Park on Oct. 10 (Bell), two at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 17 (Cooper), and one at Dunloggin, HO on Oct. 19 (Schwarz). Migrant **Northern Parulas** included one at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 24 (Eberly), six there on Sept. 24 (Mackiernan, Cooper), and a late one at Assateague on Oct. 16 (Hoffman).

*Dendroica* **Warblers**. Migrant **Yellow Warblers** included three at Assateague on Aug. 14 (Hafner, Burchett, Powell), one at Breeze Point, CH on Sept. 20 (Jett, Brewer), and one at Assateague on Sept. 27 (Hafner, Stasz). The first **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at Ashton on Aug. 20 (Sussman), highs of 25 at Milford Mill (Sanford, Frantz) and 30 at Rock Creek Park (Mackiernan, Cooper) were seen on Sept. 1, and a late one was at the latter site on Oct. 6 (Mackiernan, Cooper). Two **Magnolia Warblers** were at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 24 (Eberly) with 15 there on Sept. 24 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 20 were at Rockburn on Sept. 25 (Ott), one was at California on Oct. 14 (Bell, Kostenko), and the latest was at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 17 (Cooper). Early **Cape May Warblers** were one at Point Lookout on Aug. 23 (Mozurkewich), one at Piney Run on Aug. 31 (Ringler), and one at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 31 (Mackiernan, Cooper); highs of four at Battle Creek on Sept. 20 (Kluza) and 20 at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +) were noted, and the latest were eight at Assateague on Oct. 16 (Hoffman). An early **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at Mount Pleasant on Aug. 24 (Ott), 12 were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 1 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 15 were at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), a female was seen on Assateague on Oct. 23 (J. Martin), and a male was exceptionally late at Sandy Point on Nov. 8 (Ellison +). An early **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at Chino Farms on Sept. 17 (Gruber) and 260 were at Assateague on Oct. 16 (Hoffman). A well-described **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was at Assateague on Oct. 22 (Dyke). Two **Black-throated Green Warblers** were at Mount Pleasant on Aug. 24 (Ott, Holdridge), 25 were at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 3 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 25 were at Cylburn on Oct. 5 (Graff +), and one late bird was at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 17 (Cooper). Two **Blackburnian Warblers** were at Eastern Neck on Aug. 17 (Brighton) and seven were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 5 and one there on Oct. 6 (Mackiernan, Cooper); also on Oct. 6 were one at Chesapeake Landing (Ellison) and one at Turkey Point (Starling). A **Pine Warbler** was late at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 30 (Pope) and one was at Point Lookout on Nov. 9 (Baron). Three **Prairie Warblers** at Assateague on Aug. 14 (Hafner, Burchett, Powell) were early migrants; late birds were one at West Friendship, HO on Oct. 10 (Cullison) and one at Assateague on Nov. 8 (Pisano, Turner). Many of the **Palm Warbler** sightings, most with the subspecies recorded, are worth reporting: one yellow and four westerns at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 (Hafner +), one yellow at Waldorf on Sept. 21 (Jett), 12 westerns at Terrapin on Oct. 7 (Hafner), three yellows and 15 westerns at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), 25 mostly yellows at Kenilworth Park on Oct. 13 (Pisano), one yellow and 28 westerns at Assateague on Oct. 16 (Hoffman), one yellow at Idylwild WMA, CN on Oct. 19 (Brighton), six at Perryman on Oct. 26 (Cheicant), one yellow at Hance Point, CE on Oct. 31 (Starling), two yellows at Kent Island on Nov. 1 (Crabtree), one at Cromwell Valley Park on Nov. 8 (Bryce Butler), one western at Centennial on Nov. 9 (Solem), two yellows at Point Lookout on Nov. 9 (Baron), and one western at Eastern Neck on Nov. 22 (Ellison +). The first **Bay-breasted Warbler** of the season was at Cylburn on Aug. 31 (Sanford) and the last was at Layhill on Oct. 5 (Sussman +). Extremely early **Blackpoll Warblers** were one at Mount Pleasant on Aug. 31 (Ott, Cullison, Solem) and one at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 1 (Mackiernan, Cooper); a high of six was at Town Hill on Oct. 11 (Churchill) and one was at Assateague on Oct. 16 (Hoffman). Rarely reported in fall, a **Cerulean Warbler** was at MPEA on Sept. 17 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem).

*Other Warblers.* Two migrant **Black-and-white Warblers** were at Assateague on Aug. 14 (Hafner, Burchett, Powell), 20 were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 1 and 5 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 17 were at Milford Mill on Sept. 6 (Pete Webb +), and one was at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +). Highs for **American Redstarts** were 35 at Assateague on Aug. 14 (Hafner, Burchett, Powell) and 20 at Terrapin on Sept. 7 (Mackiernan, Cooper); extraordinarily late were one at Assateague on Oct. 26 (Hafner, Baer, Burchett) and one at Ocean City on Nov. 8 (Ringler). Migrant **Prothonotary Warblers** were one at Fort McHenry on Aug. 2 (Costley), seven at Assateague on Aug. 14 (Hafner, Burchett, Powell), one at Oak Grove on Aug. 24 (Lovelace), and one near-record late bird at Assateague on Oct. 26 (Hafner, Baer, Burchett). A late **Northern Waterthrush** was at Ocean City on Oct. 12 (Ringler, Ellis). The last **Louisiana Waterthrushes** of the year were two at Soldiers Delight on Aug. 10 (Costley) and one at Chino Farms on Aug. 12 (Hafner). Only eight **Connecticut Warblers** were reported, all single birds: Fran Uhler NA on Aug. 28 (Fallon), Fort McHenry on Aug. 29 (Peters), near Triadelphia, MO on Sept. 6 (Marko +), Rock Creek Park on Sept. 16 and 30 (Mackiernan, Cooper), Western Regional Park on Oct. 1 (Ott, Solem), Kinder Farm Park on Oct. 1 (Phil Davis), and banded at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 9 (Skipper, Pope). There were even fewer **Mourning Warblers**: one banded at Laurel on Aug. 30 (Robbins), an adult male at Little Bennett on Aug. 31 (Bob Hartman), one at Chesapeake Landing on Sept. 2 (Ellison), one at Turkey Point on Sept. 20 (Starling), and one near Queenstown on Sept. 30 (Crabtree). Highs of 30 **Common Yellowthroats** at Terrapin on Sept. 7 (Mackiernan, Cooper) and 13 at Morgan Run on Sept. 14 (Ringler +) were found; late birds on Nov. 23 were two at Milltown Landing WMA (Mozurkewich +) and one at the Smithsonian on the Mall, DC (Mackiernan, Cooper). Migrant **Hooded Warblers** were two at Assateague on Aug. 14 (Hafner, Burchett, Powell), one at Battle Creek on Sept. 20 (Kluza), one at Western Regional Park on Oct. 1 (Ott), one at Rock Creek Park on Oct. 3 (Mackiernan, Cooper), one male at Layhill on Oct. 4 (Sussman), and one at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 8 (Pope). An early **Wilson's Warbler** was seen on the C&O Canal, MO on Sept. 1 (Waanders) and a late female was at Jefferson Patterson Park on Oct. 16 (Bell). A **Canada Warbler** was at Mount Pleasant on Aug. 24 (Ott), seven were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 5, and a late one was there on Oct. 5 (Mackiernan, Cooper). The last **Yellow-breasted Chat** of the season was seen at Vienna, DO on Oct. 26 (Hafner, Baer, Burchett).

*Tanagers, Towhee, Sparrows, Juncos, Longspurs, Snow Buntings.* On Oct. 4 Stasz saw a **Western Tanager** on Assateague. Highs for **Scarlet Tanagers** were 10 at Cylburn on Sept. 21 (Sanford +) and 12 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 30 (Mackiernan, Cooper); late were one at Jefferson Patterson Park on Oct. 10 (Bell) and two at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +). Shirley Geddes reported seeing a **Spotted Towhee** in her yard at Anneslie, BA on Oct. 28–29. Early **American Tree Sparrows** were two at Assateague on Nov. 8 (O'Brien), one at Lilypons on Nov. 9 (C. Harris), and one near Harrisonville, BA on Nov. 9 (Sanford). Flocks of migrating **Chipping Sparrows** were 55 at West Friendship, HO on Oct. 25 (Cullison), 126 at Hampton Mansion, BA on Nov. 1 (Peters, Costley), and 50 at Cambridge on Nov. 9 (Ringler); late were three at Reeds Creek, QA on Nov. 17 (Poet) and one at Milltown Landing WMA on Nov. 23 (Mozurkewich +). Two **Clay-colored Sparrows** were seen at Assateague from Sept. 27 through Oct. 5 with one remaining through Nov. 16 (Hafner, Stasz +), one was at Western Regional Park on Oct. 25 (Cullison), one was at Pickering Creek on Oct. 26–27 (Hafner, Baer, Burchett +), one was banded at Chino Farms on Oct. 28 and another was banded on Nov. 2 (Gruber), and one was near Berlin on Nov. 8 (Brighton, Holbrook). Migrant **Vesper Sparrows** were one at Alpha Ridge Landfill on Oct. 18 and 31 (Cullison) and one at Milltown Landing WMA on Nov. 22 (Mozurkewich). An immature **Lark Sparrow** was at Dames Quarter, SO on Aug. 24 (Holbrook, Brighton), one was at Assateague from Sept.

24 through Oct. 5 (C. & D. Broderick +), and an adult was at Western Regional Park on Oct. 4 (Cullison, Ott +). Early **Savannah Sparrows** on Sept. 6 were nine at Hart-Miller (Hafner +) and three at UMCF (Ott, Holdridge, Solem); highs were 120 at the latter site on Oct. 12 (Ott), 75 at Alpha Ridge Landfill on Oct. 18 (Cullison), and 30 on Kent Island on Nov. 1 (Crabtree). Holbrook and Brighton found 30 "**Ipswich**" **Savannah Sparrows** at Assateague on Nov. 22. Migrant **Grasshopper Sparrows** were one at Western Regional Park on Oct. 18 (Cullison), two at Alpha Ridge Landfill on Oct. 25 (Cullison), one at Perryman on Oct. 26 (Cheicante), and one at Pickering Creek on Oct. 29 (Roslund). The only **Le Conte's Sparrow** of the season was banded at Chino Farms on Oct. 19 (Gruber). Four **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Nov. 8 (Stasz, Boyd, Burchett), one was at Taylors Landing on Nov. 15 (Holbrook, Brighton), and two were there on the 18<sup>th</sup> (Stasz). The only reports of **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were six at Irish Grove on Aug. 24 (Holbrook, Brighton), two at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Nov. 8 (Stasz, Boyd, Burchett), and one at Taylors Landing on Nov. 15 (Holbrook, Brighton). An early **Fox Sparrow** was at Chino Farms on Oct. 14 (Gruber); highs were 30 at Lilypons on Nov. 14 (C. Harris, Cyndie Loeper) and six at Piney Run on Nov. 15 (Ringler). An aberrant **Song Sparrow** with a white crown was seen at Assateague on Oct. 15 (Fred Pierce). An early **Lincoln's Sparrow** was seen at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 16 (Mackiernan, Cooper), sightings of three were at Glen Falls, CL on Oct. 11 (Frantz), Finzel on Oct. 12 (Churchill), and Terrapin on Oct. 18 (Holbrook, Brighton), and late birds were one at Salisbury on Nov. 1 (C. & D. Broderick), one at UMCF on Nov. 1 (Ott), one on Kent Island on Nov. 1 (Crabtree), and one on Assateague on Nov. 16 (Holbrook, Brighton). A **Swamp Sparrow** at UMCF on Sept. 6 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem) may not have been a migrant. Two **White-crowned Sparrows** at Western Regional Park on Oct. 1 (Ott, Solem) were early, nine were banded at Mt. Nebo on Oct. 20 (Skipper, Pope), and 20 were at Perryman on Oct. 26 (Cheicante). An immature **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** was seen at Eastern Neck on Oct. 18 (Holbrook, Brighton), one was banded at Chino Farms on Oct. 26 and was retrapped two days later, another was banded there on Nov. 5 (Gruber), and an immature was at Assateague on Nov. 16 (Holbrook, Brighton). An apparent hybrid **White-throated Sparrow X White-crowned Sparrow** was banded at Chino Farms on Nov. 9 (Gruber). Flocks of **Dark-eyed Juncos** were 52 (including one with a mostly white head) at Terrapin on Nov. 8 (Ellison) and 150 at Great Marsh Park, Cambridge on Nov. 9 (Ringler). An immature **Lapland Longspur** was record early near Taneytown, CL on Oct. 4 (Ringler, Ellis), one was near Lilypons on Nov. 2-14 (Carroll, Sanford +), and one flew over Assateague on Nov. 18 (Hafner). The first **Snow Bunting** on Assateague was seen on Nov. 8 (Hoffman); 34 were there on Nov. 22 (Holbrook, Brighton).

*Cardinaline Finches.* Three female **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** at a feeder in Creswell, HA on Aug. 12-13 (Cheicante) were remarkable; others were 16 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 30 and one there on Oct. 7 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 12 at Turkey Point on Sept. 20 (Holmes +), and a very late female at a Wilde Lake feeder on Nov. 1 (Zeichner). The last **Blue Grosbeak** of the season was singing near Hollywood, SM on Oct. 25 (Carroll). Though 20 **Indigo Buntings** were at UMCF on Aug. 23 (Ott, Holdridge, Solem) late birds were two at Jefferson Patterson Park on Oct. 16 (Bell), one at Oakland Mills, HO on Oct. 18 (Wilkinson), and one at Assateague on Nov. 8-9 (Hoffman +). On Sept. 5 Hoffman found an adult male **Painted Bunting** on Assateague. A **Dickcissel** at UMCF on Aug. 28 and Sept. 30 (Ott, Solem) was rare there. One Dickcissel on Assateague on Sept. 24 (Hoffman) was expected but an immature near Bowie on Sept. 30 (Shaffer) was not; others were one flying over College Park, PG on Oct. 1 (Hafner), one picked up on an audio recording on Backbone Mountain, GA on Oct. 2 (Cox), at least six at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), one at Western Regional Park on Oct. 18 (Wilkinson), and a late one at Assateague on Nov. 8 (Carroll).



*Icterids, Cardueline Finches.* Estimates of migrating **Bobolinks** were 500 flying over Chino Farms on Sept. 2 (Gruber), 250 at Hurlock on Sept. 3 (C. & D. Broderick), and 300 at Beulah on Sept. 28 (Brighton); late birds were two at UMCF on Oct. 5 (Ott), five at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), and four at Jesterville, WI on Nov. 8 (C. & D. Broderick). Migrant **Eastern Meadowlarks** were one at Fort McHenry on Oct. 12 (Peters +) and two at Kenilworth Park on Oct. 13 (Pisano). Reports of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were an immature flying over Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +), and one at Figgs Landing, WO on Nov. 8 (Brighton, Holbrook, Stasz). Early **Rusty Blackbirds** were 15 flying over Chapel Point SP, CH on Oct. 5 (Jett, Brewer) and six at Lilypons on Oct. 13 (Waanders). Hoffman estimated 80 **Boat-tailed Grackles** at Assateague on Oct. 16. A flock of 500 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** was estimated at Aberdeen Proving Ground on Sept. 1 (Starling). Late **Orchard Orioles** were one at Oak Grove on Aug. 31 (Lovelace), two in Talbot Co. on Sept. 6 (Roslund), and one at Terrapin on Sept. 11 (Mackiernan, Cooper). On Aug. 31 there were 15 **Baltimore Orioles** at Rock Creek Park where there was a late migrant on Oct. 1 (Mackiernan, Cooper), 11 were seen in Talbot Co. on Sept. 6 (Roslund), and a very late bird was at Assateague on Nov. 8 (O'Brien, Carroll). The first **Purple Finch** of the season was at Assateague on Sept. 27 (Hafner, Stasz) and the peak number was 30 at Chesapeake Landing on Nov. 19 (Ellison). A **Common Redpoll** flew over Ocean City on Nov. 22 (Holbrook) and one flew over Assateague the same day (Holbrook, Brighton). The first **Pine Siskin** of the season was at Assateague on Oct. 12 (Hafner +) and flocks included 50 at Lambs Knoll in late October (Huy), six at Middletown, FR on Nov. 11 (Alexander), 14 at Woodensburg, BA on Nov. 21 (Frantz), and five at Eastern Neck on Nov. 22 (Ellison, Mann). The only **Evening Grosbeak** of the season was at Assateague on Nov. 8 (Baer, Powell).

*Exotics.* A **Graylag Goose X Canada Goose** was at Piney Run on Oct. 19 (Ringler). A **Ringed Turtle-Dove** was in Takoma Park, MO on Sept. 18 (Kerry Stone). A blue **Budgerigar** was flying around Cylburn on Sept. 22 (Costley). A **Monk Parakeet** was in Germantown, MO for two or three weeks in early to mid October (Keith & Leigh Gillis).

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